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CONTENTS

NOTICE TO READERS: An * indicates material not disseminated in electronic form.

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Inter-Arab Affairs

GCC, EFTA Leaders Meet, Discuss Issues *[SPA]* 1
Egyptian Foreign Minister Meets GCC Official *[SPA]* 1
Arab Labor Conference Concludes Meetings *[INA]* 1
Arab League Issues Statement on Iraq, Iran *[Tunis Radio]* 2

Palestinian Affairs

Egypt Invites 'Arafat for 'Urgent Consultations' *[London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT 13 Mar]* 2
Qaddumi Meets French Foreign Minister in Paris *[Baghdad VOP]* 2
DFLP Central Committee Holds Series of Meetings 2
Conducts 'Political Review' *[Amman AL-RA'Y 11 Mar]* 2
Official Comments on Meetings *[Amman AL-RA'Y 12 Mar]* 3

ARAB AFRICA

Egypt

Foreign Minister on Israeli 'Cabinet Crisis' *[Cairo Radio]* 6
Government Studying Iranian 'Dialogue' Request *[London AL-MAJALLAH 13 Mar]* 6
Mubarak Addresses African Parliamentarians 13 Mar *[Cairo Radio]* 6
Al-Mahjub Elected Chairman *[MENA]* 8
Resolutions Issued *[MENA]* 8
African Development Bank To Award Grant *[AL-AKHBAR 5 Mar]* 9

Libya

Fire Breaks Out at Al-Rabitah Plant 14 Mar *[Riyadh Radio]* 9
U.S., Israel Blamed *[VOL]* 9
Official Denies Airspace Closed *[MENA]* 10
PLO's Qaddumi Comments *[Paris Radio Monte Carlo]* 10
Italian 'Secret Service' Report *[Rome ANSA]* 10
Al-Qadhdhafi Issues Statement *[Tripoli International]* 10
Protest Staged at FRG Embassy *[JANA]* 11
Unknown Group Claims Responsibility *[Paris Radio Monte Carlo]* 12

Sudan

Army Claims 'Complete Control' of Bahr al-Ghazal *[Omdurman Radio]* 12
Turns Back Rebel Attacks *[SUNA]* 12
Arabs, Fur Tribes Clash in Darfur Region 12
RCC Official: Security Restored *[SUNA]* 12
69 Dead in Fighting *[AFP]* 12
SPLA Notes 'Human Tragedy' *[Radio SPLA]* 13
'Ummah Party Leader Denounced for SPLA Links *[SUNA]* 13
Political Detainees Reportedly To Be Freed *[SUNA]* 14
Al-Bashir Confirms Release *[Omdurman Radio]* 14

Tunisia

NAM Committee on Palestine Convenes in Tunis *[Tunis Radio]* 14
PLO's 'Arafat Addresses Meeting *[Sanaa VOP]* 14
Algerian Foreign Minister's Speech *[APS]* 16
'Arafat, Cuba's Malmierca Meet *[Sanaa VOP]* 16
India's Gujral Meets Arab Leaders *[Delhi Radio]* 17

ARABIAN PENINSULA

Qatar

PRC Foreign Minister Arrives in Doha 14 Mar *[WAKH]* 18

Saudi Arabia

Soviet Foreign Ministry Official Leaves Riyadh *[Riyadh Radio]* 18
Reportage on Egyptian Foreign Minister's Visit 18
Issues Arrival Statement *[SPA]* 18
Joint Talks Underway *[SPA]* 18
Economic Accord Signed *[SPA]* 19
Comments on Arab League HQ *[Riyadh Radio]* 19
Joint Communique Issued *[Riyadh Radio]* 19
Foreign Minister Meets UK Defense Secretary *[Riyadh Radio]* 21

United Arab Emirates

Minister Receives Message From Iran's Velayati *[WAKH]* 21
Lebanese President Sends Message to Shaykh Zayid *[WAKH]* 21
Official Confers With UK's Peter Morrison *[WAKH]* 21

Yemen Arab Republic

Soviet Foreign Ministry Official Arrives in Sanaa *[Sanaa Radio]* 22
Meets Salih, Conveys Message *[Sanaa Radio]* 22
Confers With Foreign Minister *[Sanaa Radio]* 22
'Joint Communique' on YAR-Djibouti Relations *[Sanaa Radio]* 22
Djibouti Prime Minister Departs 14 Mar *[Sanaa Radio]* 23

IRAQ

'Text' of RCC Decision To Grant Kurds Amnesty *[Baghdad Radio]* 24
Reportage on British 'Spy' Confession, Execution 24
Jordan's King Attempts To Intervene *[Paris Radio Monte Carlo]* 24
Bazoft Executed 'This Morning' *[INA]* 24
Bazoft's 'Confessions' Published *[INA]* 24
Bazoft Tells UK Consul: 'Not a Spy' *[Paris Radio Monte Carlo]* 26
Papers Show Photos, Confession *[INA]* 26
Paper Criticizes Current, Past U.S. Proposals *[INA]* 27
U.S. Role in Jewish Emigration Criticized *[INA]* 27

ISRAEL

Degel Hatora Offers Solution to Coalition Crisis *[Tel Aviv Radio]* 28
Arab MK's Pose Conditions for Alignment Support *[Jerusalem TV]* 28
60 for No-Confidence; No Degel Hatora Decision *[Jerusalem Radio]* 28
Compromise Proposal Raised; Alignment Considers *[Jerusalem Radio]* 28
Compromises Fall Through *[Jerusalem Radio]* 29
Shamir Informs Knesset of Dismissal, Resignations *[Jerusalem TV]* 29
Peres Proposed No-Confidence Motion to Knesset *[Jerusalem TV]* 29
Reportage on Reaction to Libyan Plant Fire 32

Rabin Denies Israeli Role *[Jerusalem Radio]* 32
'No Information' on Fire *[Jerusalem Radio]* 32
Trial Launch of Arrow Missile Set for August *[HA'ARETZ 13 Mar]* 32
Levi Lays Cornerstone for Jerusalem Neighborhood *[Jerusalem Radio]* 33
Israeli Arabs To Stage 'Land Day' Strike 30 Mar *[THE JERUSALEM POST 13 Mar]* 33

JORDAN

Continued Reportage on Sit-In, Police Violence 34
Masa'idah on Reinstatements *[Amman Radio]* 34
Minister Apologizes for Beatings *[SAWT AL-SHA'B 15 Mar]* 34
Columnist Defends Iraqi 'Justice' in Spy Case *[AL-RA'Y 14 Mar]* 34
U.S. Intentions on Palestinian Issue 'Suspect' *[JORDAN TIMES 15-16 Mar]* 35
Mudar Badran Receives PLO Envoy, General *[AL-DUSTUR 13 Mar]* 35
Foreign Minister, Waldegrave Discuss Mideast *[PETRA-JNA]* 35
Libyan Islamists, Awqaf Ministry Sign Agreement *[PETRA-JNA]* 36

LEBANON

'Awn Reportedly Seeks 'Political Asylum' in France *[VOL]* 37
'Awn Denies Vulnerability to Assassination *[RFL]* 37
Mediation Committee Members on Meeting With 'Awn *[VOL]* 37
More on Syrian Troops Deployed in Beirut Suburbs *[Beirut Radio]* 37
New Round of Violence Feared in East Beirut *[Ihdin Radio of Free and Unified Lebanon]* 37
Officials Urged To Act on Jewish Settlement Plan *[Ihdin Radio of Free and Unified Lebanon]* 37
UN Spokesman Denies Settlers Brought to South *[Beirut Radio]* 38
Authorities Trying To Regain Land From American *[Beirut Radio]* 38
Minister Rizq Discusses 10 Mar Cabinet Meeting *[Beirut Radio]* 38
Fadlallah Delivers Friday Prayers Sermon 9 Mar *[Tehran International]* 39

SYRIA

Economy Minister Emphasizes Arab Cooperation *[Kuwait AL-ANBA' 13 Mar]* 40
Jimmy Carter Arrives, Meets With Al-Shar' *[Damascus Radio]* 40
Discusses Arab-Israeli Conflict *[Damascus TV]* 41
Meets With President Al-Asad *[Damascus Radio]* 41
Moroccan Minister Discusses Cultural Relations *[Damascus Radio]* 41
TISHRIN Condemns U.S. Arms Sales to Israel *[SANA]* 41

SOUTH ASIA

Afghanistan

Najibullah Urges Refugees To Return Home *[Kabul Radio]* 42
Najibullah Calls For End to 'Fratricidal War' *[Kabul Radio]* 43
Najibullah Issues Decrees, Awards, Promotions *[Kabul Radio]* 45
Mujahidin, Army Troops Clash in Kabul, Khowst 45
Pro-Tanay Pilots Destroy Ammo Dump *[Lahore THE NATION 14 Mar]* 45
Rockets Kill 1, Injure 11 *[Kabul Radio]* 46
Fierce Fighting Continues *[Islamabad Radio]* 46
95 Kabul Militiamen Killed *[Islamabad Radio]* 46
Tanay Holds News Conference in Lowgar Province *[Islamabad THE MUSLIM 15 Mar]* 46
AFP Reports News Conference 46
Soviet Reportage on Coup Aftermath, 'Azimi Talk *[cross-reference]* 47

Bangladesh

Gunfire From India Kills Three Border Guards *[AFP]* 47

India

Rajya Sabha, Lok Sabha Discuss Kashmir Issue *[Delhi Radio]* 48
PLO Chief: Kashmir 'Integral Part of India' *[Delhi TV]* 48
Home Minister: 'No Role' for UN in Kashmir *[Delhi Radio]* 48
Baluchistan Chief Cited on Kashmir Situation *[Delhi Radio]* 48
President Outlines Policy Goals to Parliament *[Delhi TV]* 49

Iran

Saudi Paper on Lifting of Rushdie Death Threat *[SPA]* 53
*Yazdi: Death Verdict on Rushdie 'Irrevocable' *[London KEYHAN 22 Feb]* 54
President Bush Confirms Phone Call 'Hoax' *[Tehran Radio]* 55
Scholars Issue 'Edict' on Peace With Israel *[Tehran International]* 55
UN Report, Amnesty International Reaction Noted *[IRNA]* 56
Ahmad Khomeyni Meets Students Expelled From UK *[Tehran TV]* 58
Afghan Shiites Open Congress in Tehran 13 Mar 58
President's Message Opens Assembly *[Tehran Radio]* 58
Velayati Addresses Group *[IRNA]* 59
Commentary Views Assembly *[IRNA]* 59
Velayati Receives Japanese Economic Official *[Tehran Radio]* 60
Japanese Businessman on Need for Trade Committee *[Tokyo KYODO]* 60
Japanese Agreement on Farming Project Signed *[IRNA]* 60
Bulgarian Deputy Foreign Minister Arrives 10 Mar *[IRNA]* 61
Meets With Velayati *[IRNA]* 61
Vows To Purchase Oil, Vehicles *[IRNA]* 61
*Travel Rules for USSR Border Residents Signed *[London KEYHAN 22 Feb]* 61
Commentary on Iran-Soviet Economic Cooperation *[Tehran International]* 61
Editorial Favors More Cooperation With GCC *[TEHRAN TIMES 28 Feb]* 62
Kashmiri Muslims Condemn Indian Massacre *[Tehran Radio]* 63
TEHRAN TIMES on Human Rights in Kuwait *[5 Mar]* 63
Commentary Sees Turkish Prospects as 'Bright' *[Tehran International]* 63
Iranian-Turkish Relations Termed 'Fruitful' *[TEHRAN TIMES 27 Feb]* 64
Navy Ship on Training Trip Docks in Karachi *[IRNA]* 64
President Receives Mexican, Colombian Envoys *[Tehran Radio]* 65
Drug Traffickers Hanged in 12 Cities *[IRNA]* 65
Hashemi-Rafsanjani Remarks on Anti-Drug Campaign *[Tehran Radio]* 65
Majles Defense Committee Official Interviewed *[Tehran Radio]* 66
*3d Phase of Bid-Boland Refinery Operational *[KEYHAN 24 Feb]* 67
Minister Stresses Industrial Investment *[Tehran Radio]* 68
Official on Subsidies, Support for Industry *[IRNA]* 68
Tehran Residents Urged To Conserve Water *[Tehran Radio]* 68
Budget for Agriculture, Fishing Detailed *[Tehran Radio]* 69
Report on Distribution of Farmland *[Tehran Radio]* 69
Judiciary Radio, TV Representatives Appointed *[Tehran TV]* 69
TV Satellite Station Begins Operations *[Tehran Radio]* 69

Nepal

Pro-Democracy Strike Ends 'Peacefully' *[AFP]* 69
Legislator Fires on Demonstrators *[Tokyo KYODO]* 70

Pakistan

'Arafat Refutes Reported Comments on Kashmir *[THE PAKISTAN TIMES 15 Mar]* 70
Bhutto Comments on Afghanistan, Kashmir *[Islamabad Radio]* 71

Inter-Arab Affairs

GCC, EFTA Leaders Meet, Discuss Issues

LD1203164990 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1825 GMT 11 Mar 90

[Excerpt] Riyadh, 11 Mar (SPA)—The The Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] assistant secretary general for economic affairs, Dr. 'Abdallah al-Quwayz, held a meeting today with the secretary general of the European Free Trade Association, EFTA, Georg Reich, and the delegation accompanying him.

After the meeting, Dr. al-Quwayz said that during the meeting, which was attended by the ambassador of Sweden to the Kingdom Lennart Alvin, whose country holds the chairmanship of EFTA, many important issues which concern EFTA and GCC at regional and international levels were discussed, particularly the changes taking place in Eastern Europe and their effect on the economic situation in the region. He said the meeting also dealt with EFTA's relations with the European Community, the intensive consultations currently taking place to extend an agreement between the EC and EFTA on a free trade area, and the effect of this on economic relations between GCC member countries and members of EFTA. Dr. al-Quwayz said relations between the GCC and the EC, a proposal for a free trade agreement between them, and the effect of this on future trade exchanges between GCC member countries and EFTA were also discussed at the meeting. [passage omitted]

Egyptian Foreign Minister Meets GCC Official

LD1303025590 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 2330 GMT 12 Mar 90

[Text] Riyadh, 12 Mar (SPA)—Today, Dr. 'Ismat Ahmad 'Abd-al-Majid, Egyptian deputy prime minister and minister of foreign affairs, visited the General Secretariat of the Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC]. There, Dr. Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid met with GCC Secretary General Mr. 'Abdallah Ya'qub Bisharah.

After the meeting, Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid said that during the meeting they discussed a number of issues of interest to the Arab nation in general, foremost was the coordination in the matters concerning the emigration of Jews from the Soviet Union and East Europe to the occupied Palestinian territories. In this connection he pointed out that a UN Security Council meeting would be held soon to discuss this matter.

In his news statement, the Egyptian foreign minister added that he acquainted Mr. Bisharah with the latest Egyptian contacts with the United States and all the concerned parties about the peace process in the Middle East.

In a similar statement, the GCC secretary general pointed out that he acquainted Dr. Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid with the contacts carried out by the GCC countries with the various concerned parties for establishing a just and permanent peace in the Gulf region and the efforts exerted by the GCC countries because of their firm wish to establish permanent peace and stability all over the region based on good neighborliness. He pointed out that the GCC countries support the current pursuits of the UN secretary general for making the direct Iraq-Iran negotiations succeed.

Arab Labor Conference Concludes Meetings

JN1203165790 Baghdad INA in English 1530 GMT 12 Mar 90

[Text] Baghdad, Mar 12, INA—Arab Labor Conference's 18th session was concluded here today. [Baghdad Domestic Service at 1700 GMT in a similar item reports that the Arab Labor Conference was held in Cairo]

Mr. Umid Midhat Mubarak, Iraqi minister of labor and social affairs, said in a statement to INA, upon concluding the session that participants in the conference paid special attention to the danger of Soviet and East European countries Jewish influx into occupied Arab territories and the threat to Arab national security it represented, they have decided to lodge the issue at the 88th International Labor Conference scheduled to be held in Geneva next May. [sentence as received]

He added that the conference decided to form committees in Arab states to raise funds in support of the Palestinian uprising, it had discussed Arab labor conditions in occupied Palestine, and requested Arab states to provide financial support to establish productive projects in occupied Arab territories.

Mr. Mubarak said that the conference requested Arab states to exert increased good will efforts to reinitiate peace move in Lebanon toward aiming at preserving its independence, sovereignty and provide economic, political and social assistance to help it overcome the hardship its people are going through.

He added that the conference called on the Arab League to support Eritrean people's rights to self-determination and condemned Zionist presence in Eritrean Red Sea Islands and the moves to hinder the flow of the Nile River that would threaten Arab vital interests.

The minister added that the conference hailed unification steps between the two Yemens as being steps in the direction of Arab unification.

As for the conditions of Arab laborers in European countries after recent developments in Europe, the minister said that the conference decided to bring up the issue before the International Labor Conference in its 77th session next May.

The conference stressed the importance of maintaining the Arab Labor Organization in Geneva because of its important role in coordinating policies of Arab labor delegations and in keeping contacts with the International Labor Organization's agencies.

He concluded that the conference decided to appoint Mr. Bakr Mahmud Rasul the organization's director general for the next five years and to hold its 19th session in Tripoli, Libya, during next March.

Arab League Issues Statement on Iraq, Iran

LD1403162990 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 13 Mar 90

[Text] Within the framework of its 93d ordinary session, the Arab League Council today released a news statement in which it stressed the need to make persistent efforts at regional and international levels to get direct talks between Iraq and Iran going under UN auspices on the basis of UN Security Council Resolution 598, in a way that would guarantee Iraq's rights and sovereignty over its territories, particularly its historical right to the Shatt al-'Arab.

Regarding U.S. attempts to abrogate the United Nations General Assembly resolution which regards Zionism as a form of racism and racial discrimination, the council decided to confront these attempts and prevent the abrogation of the resolution, because that would constitute a serious precedent that would undermine the credibility of the United Nations and its resolutions.

Regarding the situation in South Africa, the Arab League Council stressed the Arab countries commitment to support the legitimate struggle of the South African people to eradicate apartheid. It also praised the struggle of the Namibian people, led by SWAPO, and welcomed the country's independence and Sam Nujoma's election as president of Namibia.

The council condemned Israeli plans to seize the waters of southern Lebanon, and decided to coordinated with the Lebanese Government to ward off the threats of Israeli ambitions.

Palestinian Affairs

Egypt Invites 'Arafat for 'Urgent Consultations'

PM1403153190 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 13 Mar 90 p 2

[Unattributed report: "Egypt Invites 'Arafat for Urgent Consultations"]

[Text] Cairo, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—A responsible Palestinian source in Cairo has told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that the Egyptian political leadership has invited Palestinian president Yasir 'Arafat to Egypt for urgent consultations on the Middle East peace process.

Meanwhile, Egyptian Foreign Ministry sources have stated that Egypt has conveyed to the U.S. Administration the PLO's conditions for holding a Palestinian-Israeli dialogue in Cairo on the basis of the compromise formula proposed by Baker to Arens during their meeting in Washington in February, which still awaits a reply from the Israeli Government.

The sources said these conditions are tantamount to guarantees sought by the PLO in the event that the dialogue is held without its direct participation. They are: recognition of the PLO as the sole legitimate representative; official announcement of the need for PLO participation in drawing up the final peace map between Israel and the Palestinians; and official declaration of the right of the evicted Palestinians and Palestinian deportees to repatriation to the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, with payment of adequate compensation to in accordance with UN Security Council Resolution 191.

Qaddumi Meets French Foreign Minister in Paris

JN1503065890 Baghdad Voice of the PLO in Arabic 1924 GMT 14 Mar 90

[Text] Brother Abu-al-Lutf [Faruq Qaddumi], head of the PLO Political Department, met in Paris yesterday afternoon with French Foreign Minister Roland Dumas. They reviewed the latest developments of the Palestine question, the situation in our occupied territories, and the extensive emigration of Soviet Jews to occupied Palestine.

DFLP Central Committee Holds Series of Meetings

Conducts 'Political Review'

JN1103113890 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 11 Mar 90 pp 24, 18

[Text] The Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine [DFLP] Central Committee has held a series of meetings which concluded on 3 March. These meetings were devoted to a "critical political review."

The Central Committee's decisions contained severe political criticism of the front's Political Bureau "because it has not responded quickly to the requirements of the intifadah—which now demands the transformation of the front's command to a general staff in the service of the intifadah—and because it lacks a political initiative."

The decisions clarified that the dispute within the Political Bureau, due to the difference in members' viewpoints regarding the required initiative, led to "conspicuous confusion in the front's political course of action in the wake of and during the convening of the last Palestine National Council [PNC], and has demonstrated, for the first time, the disunity of the front's stance."

The statement said that although the Palestinian people received the PNC decisions in a highly positive manner, this does not cancel the fact that "since the convening of the Council up to April 1989—the front's policy has been characterized by extremism and radicalism expressed through some forms of isolation from the Palestine national political course of action, has retarded the role of our party from active and effective participation, and eliminated what distinguishes us from other factions, which were reluctant to express views concerning the

Palestinian peace initiative. The Political Bureau, as a collective commission, is held responsible for this policy.

All this—in the absence of a united political stance for the front—does not justify the silence on some of the stands expressed by influential quarters in the PLO, which is entertaining illusions based on inaccurate estimations of the means to achieve a quick solution to our national issue.

The decisions made it clear that during its critical review of our policy in the previous stage and the confusion this policy had created—which affected the vanguard role of our party—the Central Committee affirms the need to rectify these stands, its adherence to the Palestinian peace program—represented in the peace initiative and the PNC decisions—and the need to consecrate them as a struggling program for all the people on the road to achieving independence. The Central Committee, moreover, asserts the need for active participation in the PLO's political course of action, continued work in order to mobilize our party and the masses of our people through the PNC's decisions in its 19th session, the Palestinian peace initiative, and the Central Council's decisions in its last session, in November 1989.

In its decisions, the Central Committee has emphasized the front's major alliance with the Fatah Movement—leadership, cadres, and bases—and with all the national forces affiliated with the PLO, the work for consolidating our Arab relations on the basis of what serves our people's national interests, adherence to the Casablanca summit decisions, and support for the Palestinian peace initiative.

While asserting its adherence to the PNC decisions, the Palestinian peace initiative, and the decisions of the Central Council in its November 1989 session, the Central Committee is working to develop its previous decisions, taken in November 1989, toward the domination of the national realistic line, away from all forms of rightist or leftist extremism.

The guarantee for adhering to this realistic policy and the unification of our party on the basis of this policy demand giving a more effective role to the Central Committee—in its capacity as the first party command—and guaranteeing the collectiveness and unity of the Political Bureau as a general staff in the service of developing and escalating the intifadah and providing it with the necessary means for its victory.

Official Comments on Meetings

JN1203120490 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic
12 Mar 90 p 11

[Interview with Saji Salamah, member of the Political Bureau of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine (DFLP) and member of the PLO Central Council, by 'Awdah 'Awdah in Amman after attending three weeks of meetings of the DFLP Central Committee in Algiers]

[Excerpts] ['Awdah] Brother Saji, it is being rumored that there are sharp differences and divisions inside the DFLP leadership. How true is this rumor, in light of the DFLP Central Committee meeting from which you have just returned?

[Salamah] First, rumors about differences or sharp divisions inside the DFLP ranks are totally untrue. Of course, there are various viewpoints and interpretations. This develops within the militant process and is natural in a dynamic party like the DFLP, which plays an important role in our people's national movement and, specifically, in the glorious intifadah waged by our militant people in the occupied territories. In fact, we in the DFLP take pride in the traditions of our internal action which produces wide-ranging interaction on moves and viewpoints in a free and democratic manner within party channels. This is based on democratic centralization which enabled the DFLP to maintain its cohesion and unity throughout the years of its struggle. I believe the walls of the DFLP are strong enough and capable of defending the DFLP's internal unity and running the democratic process within it effectively and positively.

['Awdah] But this is the first time your internal differences are having such wide publicity. Why?

[Salamah] We are a coherent and unified party, but not a closed one. We have always said that a fair description of what is taking place inside our ranks is that there are varying interpretations and viewpoints. We did not agree to describe this as splits or divisions. I believe the most appropriate formula for a party that respects itself like ours is through internal discussion of the different viewpoints through organizational channels. Certainly, the DFLP has nothing to hide. In the Palestinian arena, there are close relationships between the various factions whose vital relations make internal differences largely visible. The problem is one of inaccurate and, sometimes, out of context quoting, as well as distortions. Sometimes, the problem is in dealing with serious issues unobjectively. [passage omitted]

['Awdah] Why then did the Central Committee meeting last for such a long time—approximately 3 weeks? This is a long time. What happened during this time?

[Salamah] In fact, the Central Committee's meeting was a full working session which discussed all aspects of national and party action. One might say it was a historic session in the life of the DFLP during which discussions dealt with all dimensions of the current militant stage of the national Palestinian movement. Discussions also dealt with the developments motivated by the victorious popular intifadah in the occupied homeland—given that it is the national independence war of the Palestinian people—as well as means to support it. These discussions will definitely have profound positive repercussions on the national and internal party level. During these meetings, the political and organizational report was unanimously adopted after long hours of debate and

frank dialogue. A new Political Bureau was also elected. It will lead the DFLP during the period ahead on the basis of the political and organizational guidelines unanimously approved by the Central Committee. I would like to indicate that the Central Committee unanimously elected members from inside the homeland.

['Awdah] Are there any political or organizational differences between Nayif Hawatimah's wing and Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh's wing?

[Salamah] The talk about wings within the front is inaccurate. There are viewpoints and ideas that are expressed democratically within the fronts organizational framework. Also, decisions are taken democratically by the competent party institutions. This is precisely what took place in the Central Committee meeting in Algiers in the middle of this month. The political and organizational course was adopted unanimously. All the Central Committee members stood up and received the resolutions with long applause accepting the political and organizational results, as well as the results of the elections of the new Political Bureau. These were democratically held elections. Some won the confidence of the Central Committee for membership of the Political Bureau while others did not gain that confidence.

['Awdah] Will the contents of the political and organizational report be announced? Would you tell us about the main points of the report and explain what is new in the front's policy?

[Salamah] The Political Bureau will issue an official statement within the next two days on the work and results of the Central Committee session and the political and organizational course adopted by the Committee. However, I can explain some elements in the report:

On the political side, there was a comprehensive assessment of the past period and also a critical review, which is a firm practice in the DFLP. Through the assessment, the Central Committee discussed the intifadah, the activity of the influential national forces within the intifadah, and the glorious role played by the Unified National Leadership in steering and unifying our people's struggle against the occupation. The report affirms the growing prominent role played the organizations of the DFLP in the occupied homeland together with all Palestinian organizations in developing the intifadah, guaranteeing its continuation, and continuing the work to entrench the power of the unified leadership, the popular committees, national institutions, and the unified leadership bodies with the aim of fragmenting the occupation authority organs as well as isolating and boycotting them. I can say that the courses and major tasks approved by the Central Committee for all the front's organizations in all arenas stem from the need to meet the militant and material requirements of the intifadah, escalate its role, provide the requirements of its continuation, and follow a policy that will mobilize the potentials of the Palestinian people wherever they are in the service of the intifadah.

The Central Committee stessed the need to continue to follow the unifying, realistic, and national policy that has characterized our front throughout its militant march. It also stressed the need to continue to explain to our party and masses the resolutions adopted by the Palestine National Council [PNC] in its 19th session and the Palestinian peace initiative, which produced the resolutions of the Central Council in its recent session last November. The Central Committee affirmed the importance of continuing active political moves on the basis of this initiative, promoting the DFLP's political role within the PLO in a more active way, shouldering the tasks of the national and political action, protecting the resolutions of the PNC and the Central Council, and defeating all pressures aimed at encroaching on the PLO's sole representation. The Central Committee considered the battle of representation a critical one on whose results the political future and cause of the Palestinian people depend. Therefore, emphasis was placed on rejecting Egyptian pressures that aim to propagate the American and other hostile plans.

The Central Committee valued our party's stands inside the occupied territory, the Unified National Leadership, and the national Palestinian figures who have defined a firm position on the formation of the delegation to the Palestinian-Israeli dialogue by affirming that the delegation should be formed and announced by the PLO so that it includes figures from inside and outside. [passage omitted]

['Awdah] What about intra-Palestinian relations; that is, the internal relations?

[Salamah] The Central Commmittee discussed the subject and decided that the DFLP's alliance policy should be based—as it was in the past—on uniting all our Palestinian people's forces in the united struggle against the occupation to defeat it and materialize the state of Palestine on the ground. The role of the front was prominent and initiated the formation and struggle march of the Unified National Leadership [UNL]. On the level of the occupied homeland, our line is to unite all forces under the banner of the UNL.

In the same way, our policy of alliance with the PLO, as was affirmed by the Central Committee resolutions, is based on the unity of all PLO factions on respecting the resolutions of national concensus as expressed by the resolutions of the PNC and the PLO Central Council, not deviating from them, and halting any individual practices that could affect the PLO's unity negatively. Regarding this, the development of the national process and its complications, especially the developments that have become known to the intifadah and its increasing material, political, and informational needs, all now require developing means and methods for work inside the PLO. The Central Committee has affirmed the necessity that the DFLP take on the role of initiator in

uniting all forces and trends which call for democratic reform inside the PLO with all its extended meanings, such as developing the mechanism of national decision-making, bolstering group leadership action, developing the PLO's institutions, ending the pockets of corruption inside it, and combating individualism and administrative and financial laxity. Waging the battle of democratic reform is a central resolution on which there is no turning back. The DFLP will work toward applying it on the basis of national unity and fraternal and frank interaction.

['Awdah] However, brother Saji, within the field of our discussion of intra-Palestinian relations, there is a distinguished relationship between the DFLP and the PLO.

[Salamah] We realize the role and distinguished status of the PLO as a major organization in the Palestinian arena. We have, of course, strong relations with it. However, we have our independent policies and we ally with all the national forces within the framework of the PLO. The DFLP will not respond to any calls to form blocs, axes, or deals within the framework of the PLO. This has always been the DFLP's stand and role and it will remain this way: United, balanced, independent of anyone, and not allied with one side against another.

The DFLP cannot bend its principles and the essence of its national policy. It will remain true to its national unionist role and program on whose basis it acquired the toiling and struggling masses' support in the camps, villages, and cities. It will remain true to the martyrs.

['Awdah] Has the Central Committee discussed the issue of armed struggle?

[Salamah] Yes, it discussed the issue of armed struggle and reaffirmed that armed struggle is one of the basic pillars of the Palestinian national struggle. The Central Committee emphasized the importance of developing and pursuing armed struggle, given that it is a basic pressure means on the ocupation, and a basic factor that supports the intifadah and protects our camps in Lebanon.

['Awdah] Can you clarify the organizational decisions the Central Committee adopted?

[Salamah] First, I must point out here that the political course agreed on by the Central Committee is one of implementation. Therefore, the new Political Bureau will firmly undertake the mission of implementing the decision unanimously adopted by the Central Committee.

The most important decision in this respect is the emphasis placed by the Central Committee on the need to transform the Political Bureau into an operations room to follow up the affairs of the intifadah and to effectively participate in coordination with the commands of our organizations in the occupied homeland in the unification of party and national efforts in the current battle for national independence. One of the most prominent decisions the front's Central Commitee adopted is to convene the third DFLP general national congress during the next few months. Within the framework of the preparations for this congress, a decision was made to organize the broadest dialogue within the front through the organizational channels. To facilitate the process of dialogue and to give an opportunity to all viewpoints within the organization to interact, the Central Committee decided to issue an inhouse publication for this purpose on whose pages will be submitted all ideas with complete freedom. The decision to convene the congress and to launch vital dialogue within the front is part of the course the front's Central Committee is following to organize relations within the front and with the masses in a manner that will safeguard the unity of the front. Through the long experience of our front, the DFLP's Central Committee has proved that it is the most suitable instrument to bring in line all the viewpoints on the basis of the unity of the front and that of its political course and to prevent the emergence of any negative manifestations or divisions. The Central Committee also agreed to enhance party supervision by the lower echelons of the higher echelons, and expand the formation of leaders commissions at all levels through direct elections. The new Political Bureau will work in accordance with these decisions to enhance democracy within the front. [passage omitted]

Egypt

Foreign Minister on Israeli 'Cabinet Crisis'

NC1403194890 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 14 Mar 90

[Text] Dr. Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs, has stated that Egypt is following the developments in Israel's cabinet crisis with great interest. He said Egypt hopes that this crisis will not affect the efforts by Egyptian diplomacy to launch a Palestinian-Israeli dialogue.

Government Studying Iranian 'Dialogue' Request

PM1203154190 London AL-MAJALLAH in Arabic 13 Mar 90 p 10

[Unattributed report: "Iranian Message to Egypt Via Oman"]

[Text] Omani Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Yusuf Bin-al-'Alawi has conveyed to Egyptian Foreign Minister Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid an Iranian message to the Egyptian Government connected with an Iranian request for dialogue with Egypt on the following issues: boosting the Egypt-Iran Bank in Cairo; joint banking ventures; bilateral cooperation on the investment of Iranian funds in Egypt; the release of Egyptian prisoners of war held in Iranian prisons—the most reliable estimate of their number is 102—and the resumption of trade and industrial exchanges between the two countries.

The Egyptian Government is studying the message on the basis of its firm position on the need for a response to peace initiatives in the interests of peace in the Gulf.

Mubarak Addresses African Parliamentarians 13 Mar

NC1303104790 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 0824 GMT 13 Mar 90

[Speech by President Husni Mubarak at the 13th conference of the African Parliaments Union in the People's Assembly Hall on 13 March—live]

[Text] In the name of God, the Merciful, the Compassionate. Mr. Chairman, ladies and gentlemen. It gives me pleasure to speak to you for the second time on Egyptian soil. Egypt, with its sincere feelings and its political, intellectual, and cultural structures, has never isolated itself from the concerns, the aspirations, and the struggle of the African continent and its outlook on the future of human freedom and dignity. This is the natural link which is deeply rooted in the hearts of Egyptians in the various generations, with their different political orientations. We all believe that we belong eternally and fatefully to our greatest continent in its past, present, and future.

I was honored to speak to you for the first time when the second conference of the African Parliaments Union was held 12 years ago. At that time, Egypt was laying the cornerstone of its democratic structure to establish the people's authority, grant freedom of expression, and secure popular participation in the decisionmaking process. This was the gratifying development which we had the pleasure to announce before your union, which was only in its second year. Since its establishment in early 1976, your union has demonstrated notable efficiency in playing an effective and positive role. It represented a strong drive and was constantly active on the road to freedom and progress toward the construction of our struggling continent which must occupy its prominent status on the world map in this sensitive stage of the history of mankind.

It is fortunate that I speak to you today while several gratifying developments are occurring on African soil. Today, we are living what can be regarded as national days which are celebrated by every African household, or rather by all free and honorable men all over the world. Namibia's independence on 21 March is an occasion for celebration. It is a day of celebration for all free and struggling men.

There is major historic evidence that our pure soil has no room for those who usurp man's right to freedom, dignity, and to be the master of his own land and destiny. The almighty has created us all free and free we will live. God willing, by the will to struggle, and the will to sacrifice for the sake of the homeland, the principles, and the creed, the racist hegemony will be eliminated from every inch of pure African soil. The will of the people is part of the will of God. If the people want something, the divine hand of Providence always responds.

Then came the great joy, brothers and sisters, of the release of the great African struggler Nelson Mandela who, by his splendid heroic struggle, embodied the loftiness of the African struggle movement, the nobility of its objectives, its adherence to noble divine and human principles, and its firm commitment to what is right. For this reason he rightly deserved to become a symbol of human struggle everywhere. Free people and honorable strugglers everywhere seen his triumph as a victory for the forces of good over evil, light over darkness, and right over injustice. We welcome his release and again draw the attention of the minority regime in Pretoria to the evitable need to submit to historical logic and the rule of law, to acknowledge our brothers' right in southern Africa to liberty and equality and their right to exercise their civic and political rights, and to participate fully in the government on a one-man, one-vote basis in order to build the state, establish its institutions, and to determine its policies, regardless of differences in color, ethnic background, and creed.

The processions of free people are moving forward, carrying the flags of victory. The movement of history will never stop. The policies of hateful racism will not exist again except in pages in history books that will otherwise glow with the greatness of human struggle and

the majesty of immortal sacrifices which confront racism's blatant challenge to all principles of justice and the values of human dignity.

Brothers and sisters, our strength lies in our unity. Our unity is our most effective weapon in all our bold confrontation battles, both domestic and foreign. We are waging battles on more than one front and confronting obstacles in numerous places. Perhaps our greatest battle following independence, is that of building: building the individual, a just society, a dignified life. All of this must take place under democracy's luxuriant canopy which shades all African citizens. This battle also involves an active participation in shouldering public responsibilities and tasks. This is the umbrella we have constructed from our customs and traditions and our faith in the African individual's right to participate in decisionmaking. Thus we do not imitate other systems or abandon our heritage when we choose our own form of democracy.

At the opening of your second conference 12 years ago I spoke to you about the birth of the Egyptian democracy experiment. Our talk to you today can be summarized by the statement that democracy in Egypt has entirely passed the experimental stage and has become a way of life that grows rather than shrinks and whose space expands and develops, through practice, to a stage that is more open and useful for the good of the masses. The masses make the decision and are masters of their destiny.

Ladies and gentlemen, in this hall where you are gathered today under this immortal dome, the people's deputies, who represent the majority and opposition parties, exercise their national and pan-Arab responsibilities for supervising the executive authority and for passing laws.

It has been our parliament's custom that the majority party's support for its government does not mean delegating authority outright; instead it means daily and continuously controlling the government and making it accountable for its actions. Opposers and supporters very often agree on one stand. Perhaps the most eloquent example of this is the position of everyone here united behind our African policy and their backing for the government's measures to support Africa, whether on the continent or in international forums. [applause]

The freedom of expression evident in this hall, which I prefer to call "the house of the people," is the first lively sign of democracy in our society. One of democracy's most prominent fields is the press arena. This is based on our belief that a free opinion builds a free country and that a frightened and trembling hand cannot fight the battles of construction and freedom. Furthermore, we believe democracy turns into a mere hollow slogan no matter how bright it is if it does not affect people daily lives positively. Therefore, we say that democracy means developing our lives through developing the individual, the economic and social structure, scientific awareness, and human thought and perception.

We know very well that we have a great task to do because we, throughout Africa, are beginning reconstruction to make up for all the resources depleted by imperialism and exploitation.

We urgently need to hasten our steps to keep up with the astonishing technological progress from which we can not stay aloof. This technological progress should be synonymous with the African creativity. Thus, I am pleased that your conference's agenda includes studying a very important subject, the prices of raw materials, which generally represent a high percentage of African exports. This is especially true in light of the fact that the general economic situation is critical with declining economic growth rates, rising inflation and unemployment rates, an increasing trade deficit, and increasing general budgets of the African states.

This brings us to the issue of African debts. African foreign debts have reached $240 billion. This fact threatens to curtail development efforts and destroy the hopes of the African masses for a better future. Therefore, we insist on concerted efforts by the international community—north, south, east, and west—to find a solution to this explosive issue before it casts a stifling shadow on our present and future.

We still believe that the suitable approach to achieve this objective is convening an international conference on the debt problem. During this conference, a dialogue would take place among the parties based on recognizing common human fate, without distinguishing between strong and weak, rich and poor.

I again say that our African struggle in the various spheres will be enhanced and promoted by abiding by one unwritten constitution, consisting of a single article which says: Unite and never be divided. [applause]

We are all in the same boat fighting the waves and storms. We are seeking with all our strength to reach the shores of safety and peace. How can differences in views and methodology divide us when we are all facing the same dangers and challenges? Africa is a single continent, and there should be no division in it on geographical, cultural, linguistic, or racial issues. These classifications are alien to African civilization. They are also contrary to the realities of the time. They are definitely the vestiges of outdated imperialist times. We had no significant role in shaping events during these imperialist times. We place this principle before our eyes whenever we have a chance to fulfill a role in reconciling fraternal African states, easing tension between them, and removing differences that arise. We do not favor one party against another so long as we are all equal in rights and duties and have the same interest and objectives.

What we are doing in this regard is a true reflection of our faith in dialogue and negotiations as a way to peace and harmony in the relations among our states and

peoples. It is also our way of trying to establish the rights of the Palestinian people, including first of all their right to self-determination and their right to establish their state on their land like all nations and peoples. You were the first to offer this fraternal people every assistance, support, and backing.

We believe that peace is the choice which is consistent with our principles and beliefs. It is the only way to achieve stability and development. Under a secure life, creative cooperation among peoples increases, and they all have the opportunity to go forward on the path of development and to fulfill their joint responsibilities.

An African state's success in any field means success for all of us. Moreover, the growth of collective African capabilities enhances the power of each of us throughout our glorious continent.

Mr Chairman, brothers, and sisters. We are living today in the world of rapid political and economic changes. These changes are deep and fundamental and represent great historic transformations in the existence and relations of the international community. They affect both its present and its future for several generations to come. Our great continent, which is facing challenges in the most critical stages of political and economic construction, can never isolate itself from the enormous tendency to establish economic blocs. It cannot ignore the new links which are imposed by infant political entities. It still encounters overwhelming social interactions which surprise observers everyday.

I believe that our democratic institutions are capable of performing a central task in assessing these rapid international changes. They can thus define our necessary positive participation which is dictated by our duties to this African generation and the generations to come. I also believe that the African Parliaments Union will not ignore this central task which heads the list of priorities in this era of contemporary history.

Brothers and sisters. It is our destiny to redouble our efforts. However, it is a welcome destiny because we are enjoying the victory which is crowned by an unrelenting struggle. The strongholds of colonialism are collapsing. The oppression of racism is regressing. It will keep regressing until it vanishes completely. The African man's right to freedom and to a dignified life is imposing itself and is flourishing. The great light has advanced to drive away the darkness.

Let the African struggle movement continue along the road of freedom, dignity, and equality. Let the concepts of racism, discrimination, and hegemony collapse. Let the flags of independence and sovereignty fly over every inch of African soil. Let the torches of science and knowledge spread to every corner of our glorious continent. Let the remaining years of the 20th century witness the birth of a new Africa. In the name of the Almighty and in the name of the eternal African struggle and its innocent martyrs, I announce the inauguration of the conference. Let it be another landmark on the road of the unified African movement. May God's peace and mercy be on you. [applause]

Al-Mahjub Elected Chairman

NC1303121590 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1205 GMT 13 Mar 90

[Excerpt] Cairo, 13 Mar(MENA)—At its session today, the African Parliaments Union elected People's Assembly Speaker Dr. Rif'at al-Mahjub as chairman of the union to succeed Cameroon National Assembly speaker Lawrence Shang Fonha. [passage omitted]

Resolutions Issued

NC1403210890 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1730 GMT 14 Mar 90

[Text] Cairo, 14 Mar (MENA)—The 13th Conference of the African Parliaments Union appeals to the world community and to all peace-loving peoples to shoulder their human responsibility toward the cause of the Palestinian people and to put pressure on Israel to stop the settlement of Jewish immigrants in the occupied Palestinian territories.

The conference stressed that the immigration of Jews to the occupied territories is considered a violation of international law and human rights and an aggression against the Palestinian people's national rights. It also constitutes a threat to the region's security, which is linked to the security of the African continent. In addition, it wrecks the ongoing efforts to reach a peaceful and just settlement of the Middle East problem and the Palestinian issue.

At its final session today, the conference called for the immediate implementation of UN resolutions, especially Security Council Resolution 446 for the year 1979 and Resolution 465 for the year 1980. These two resolutions condemn Israel's illegal settlement practices and call on Israel to dismantle existing settlements. They also call for the formation of a Security Council committee to monitor settlement activity in the occupied territories.

The Conference of the African Parliaments Union called on the United Nations and the Security Council permanent members to urge Israel to expedite convening an international conference on peace in the Middle East, in accordance with the UN resolutions on Palestinian issue.

The conference commended the Palestinian people's heroic struggle and intifadah against the Israeli occupation. It stressed its support for the Palestinian Arab people in their struggle to regain their national rights and to set up a Palestinian state on their land under the leadership of the PLO.

Concerning the Lebanese problem, the conference strongly denounced all the Israeli military activity which prevents the UN peacekeeping force in Lebanon from

fulfilling its mission in keeping the peace and safeguarding Lebanon's sovereignty. The conference called for the continuation of the work of the Higher Arab Tripartite Committee until final stability is achieved in Lebanon and until Lebanon's territorial unity and political independence are assured.

The conference welcomed the decision to release African struggler Nelson Mandela and to legalize the African National Congress and other parties opposed to apartheid in South Africa.

The conference conveyed congratulations to the people of Namibia for gaining national sovereignty. It also expressed satisfaction with the recent positive developments in Namibia, especially the free and democratic chacacter of the elections and the tangible results achieved by the constituent assembly. The conference called on the Namibian people to defend their unity against any attempt to sow discord. It called on all African states to work for Namibia's development and progress under a climate of peace.

The conference called on the developed countries to apply political and diplomatic pressure on the racist regime in South Africa and to impose mandatory sanctions against it, including a ban on military and nuclear cooperation and on trade and investment.

The conference issued an urgent appeal to the South African Government to release all political detainees and to lift the state of emergency. It also urged the South African Government to hold talks with the black leaders in order to lay the foundations of a regime based on demoracy and equality.

The conference recommended that all UN member states and all African states ratify the special agreement on children's rights.

The conference called for the need for the African and developing states to cooperate and to take the necessary measures to ensure just and fair prices for their exports of primary materials.

The conference also called on the African states to review their agricultural, trade, and industrial structures, to diversify their exports, and to export their primary materials as manufactured products.

African Development Bank To Award Grant

JN0603161490 Cairo AL-AKHBAR in Arabic 5 Mar 90 p 6

[By Muhammad al-Shamma']

[Text] The African Development Bank has agreed in principle to grant $300 million toward financing the electricity generation project in al-Kuraymat. It will also grant $5 million to study the economic feasibility of a project to link the two electricity generating networks between Egypt and Zaire. This is what Engineer Mahir Abazah, minister of electricity and energy, stated.

He said: A loan contract will be signed with the bank whose value amounts to $60 million to finance the thermal electricity generating plant at al-'Arish. The contract will be signed by Economic Cooperation Minister Dr. Maurice Makramallah and on the African side by African Development Bank President Mr. Babkar Nadayay [name and title as published]. Building the station will need 36 months and will supply the electricity needs of the northern Sinai region.

It is decided also to link it with other generating plants in 'Uyun Musa within the framework of the Arab linkup project for Arab electricity networks between Tabah and Jordan's al-'Aqabah.

The capacity of al-'Arish electricity plant amounts to 1,000 kilowatts and provides energy for touristic projects, building, land reclamation, facilities, and amenities.

Libya

Fire Breaks Out at Al-Rabitah Plant 14 Mar

LD1503061790 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 0400 GMT 15 Mar 90

[Text] Early this morning Libya reported that a fire broke out at the al-Rabitah plant which the United States claimed produces chemical weapons. An official Libyan spokesman confirmed the reports which said a fire has broken out at the plant which is situated 50 miles south of the Libyan capital, Tripoli. The spokesman said that the fire broke out yesterday and that his country believed that a sabotage operation was behind the incident. He accused Israel or the United States. The spokesman did not give any details regarding the volume of the losses. However, he stresses that the fire was enormous.

U.S., Israel Blamed

NC1503065690 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0620 GMT 15 Mar 90

[Excerpts] The fire that destroyed the Libyan chemical weapons plant 80 km from Tripoli caused an uproar in regional and international circles. The United States and Israel were said to be responsible for this fire. Libya closed its borders with the outside world. [passage omitted]

REUTER cites a JANA spokesman as saying that a huge fire broke out in the al-Rabitah plant yesterday morning and that he does not rule out the possibility that the plant was subjected to either Israeli or U.S. sabotage. [passage omitted]

A Libyan spokesman has declined to give a statement on the losses resulting from the fire. He also denied reports on closing the Libyan borders.

An official source at Cairo airport said that Egypt has not yet been advised on any decision to close the Libyan

borders. The source added that an Egyptair airliner left for Tripoli on a regular flight this morning.

Official Denies Airspace Closed

NC1503131490 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1254 GMT 15 Mar 90

[Text] Cairo, 15 Mar (MENA)—'Abd-al-Latif 'Ali, director of the Libyan airline office in Cairo, denied today's newspaper reports that Libyan airspace has been closed to civil aviation traffic. In a news statement today, he said all flights from the Jamahiriyah to all foreign countries are continuing normally. He added that the Libyan flight arriving in Cairo at noon today is evidence of this.

PLO's Qaddumi Comments

JN1503063190 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 0500 GMT 15 Mar 90

[Huda Tawfiq dispatch from Washington]

[Excerpts] President Bush has emphasized that the United States has nothing to do with the Libyan al-Rabitah plant fire. [passage omitted]

In a statement to our radio, [head of the PLO Political Department] Faruq Qaddumi said the Libyan plant fire is an aggression on Libya and on the Arabs' right to defend themselves. He added that Israel had previously threatened Libya by firing a missile that fell into Libyan waters. This, he said, raises doubts now on who is behind the Libyan al-Rabitah plant fire.

Faruq Qaddumi is now in New York to take part in today's UN Security Council meeting on Jewish emigration and settlement in the occupied territories.

Italian 'Secret Service' Report

AU1503140290 Rome ANSA in English 1243 GMT 15 Mar 90

[Text] (ANSA) Rome, March 15—A qualified Italian secret service source has confirmed that it was Italy which informed its Western allies of the fire which broke out at Libyan chemicals plant in al-Rabitah, eighty kilometers south of Tripoli.

This same source added that the Italian secret service received information on the al-Rabitah fire from its counterparts in other nations and that it immediately informed the Rome Government.

"We have not yet had the possibility to ascertain exactly what happened," the source underscored, "but something certainly did occur." What the secret service is now attempting to establish, the source added, is whether the fire broke out in the pharmaceutical complex, where the United States claims chemical weapons are made, or elsewhere in the complex. Libya mainatains that the plant, built with West German cooperation, produced pharmaceuticals.

In Washington, yesterday, White House spokesman Marlin Fitzwater denied any American involvement in the al-Rabitah fire which he said was learned of through the Italian Embassy.

For its part, the Italian Foreign Ministry last night would neither confirm nor deny the fire at al-Rabitah, despite the news from Washington that it had been informed by the Italian Embassy there and Tripoli's admission that the fire took place.

The Rome daily LA REPUBBLICA reports today that it received confirmation of the chemicals plant fire from an Italian Defence Ministry source late last night.

The Israeli Embassy in Rome today said that it has "no ideas regarding the whole matter" of the fire in the al-Rabitah plant and that the Israeli Defence Ministry had denied any involement in the blaze.

In Tunis, a spokesman for the Libyan news agency JANA confirmed that a fire broke out at its controversial al-Rabitah chemicals plant and accused the United States and Israel of being behind the incident.

Al-Qadhdhafi Issues Statement

LD1503142190 Tripoli Voice of Greater Arab Homeland in Arabic 1329 GMT 15 Mar 90

[Unscheduled announcement]

[Text] The brother leader of the revolution has made the following statement to JANA:

If the investigation under way confirms the involvement of West German intelligence in an action inside Libya, the economic presence of Germany will be eliminated from Libya and that state which is involved in espionage and sabotage in the interest of imperialism and Zionism will lose out.

He also praised France's attitude and declared the removal of the misunderstanding which formerly prevailed between Libya and France.

He also strongly praised Andreotti and Italy's position in general. He said: We distinguished clearly today between fascist Italy and the Kingdom of Italy and between the Italian Republic and antifascist Italy.

He said: The polarization has become North-South, with the North represented by the United States and the South represented by Libya.

Referring to weapons of total destruction, he said: If Libya could manufacture them it would not have hesitated, and it would not have hidden that fact, because unfortunately there is no law whatsoever to stop any country from manufacturing them. However, Libya on its own and by its own efforts needs another 20 years to produce a chemical bomb.

He said: I challenge any company or state to come to Libya to build a chemical factory, I would personally

sign the contract without hesitation, and I would pay 1 billion [currency not specified] to anyone who could build a chemical factory for Libya because the world has not yet forbidden that.

He said Libya is a civilized and Muslim country which fears only God and respects international treaties and laws. There is nothing to be gained from being hostile to Libya. What is beneficial is to sit down and to negotiate with Libya.

He stressed that Libya is the only country in the world with fixed policies because these policies are based on basic principles. It is the only country in the world with a stable and unchangeable political and economic system because it is based on the people's authority, the government of all the people. The workers are partners, not employees, the education institutions are managed by the students, and the Libyan people govern themselves by themselves without deputization, guardianship, or a government above the people. Libya has signed all the agreements which ban the proliferation and use of weapons of total destruction, and no one has the right to draw Libya's attention to these issues.

He then said: What did the United States, Britain, and the world gain from the aggression on and the confrontation with Libya? They reaped only losses. Reagan left the White House on the bridge of innocent American, English, and Arab victims, as if he were Hitler. Libya polarized all nations and liberation movements in the world and became the mecca of those struggling for freedom and dignity who are hostile to colonialism in all its forms. It became an international center.

He expressed astonishment that neither Bush nor Thatcher have learned lessons that would benefit their own countries and benefit the world from the period of previous confrontation with Libya. He said that any aggression against Libya will only make Libya stronger and more defiant and make it gain increasingly more the sympathy of nations and of revolutionaries. On the other hand, aggression will spread violence once more on a wide scale, and the only losers will be the imperialists whose tentacles reach everywhere—which facilitates the amputation of these limbs everywhere too. The issue of world peace will inevitably lose. He reaffirmed that U.S. policy, which is hostile to Arab unity, has been exposed and has brought anger against it in every Arab street.

He said that we are determined to bring about unity, and unity will be realized despite the United States. Not everything proceeds as the United States wants. There are facts which impose themselves by virtue of the law of inevitability, which the United States ignores. Often the wind blows against the wishes of the ship.

Turning to human rights, he reaffirmed that the United States has no right to talk about human rights in Somalia, for example, or even in Chad, without giving the black nation its independence and giving the Red Indians their independence to establish for themselves independent states in North America. Disregard for human rights in the United States will inevitably lead to a civil war inside the United States.

He saluted the stand of the Arab nation, which has been united for the second time in 13 months, because the nation stood as one man with the heroic Libyan Arab people, of whom one million fighters are ready to shoulder arms.

He saluted the Jordanian Parliament in particular for its brave pan-Arab stand against U.S. colonialist tyranny. He accused the United States of racism, directing a crusading campaign, hating the human race, and genocide. He said: If I am sure that the United States is committed to the interests of the human race, does not discriminate between people of different colors, races, and religions, and that it is truly opposed to weapons of destruction, then I would be very happy and I would become a supporter of the United States instead of confronting it. I challenge the United States to do the same with the Israelis or the whites in South Africa. I even challenge the United States within its own borders. Let it start by destroying its weapons and stopping their production. However, the whole world knows that it is doing that only against Libya and against the Arabs, incited by detested crusading, racist, and imperialist motives.

In conclusion, he said: Our stand toward the Bonn government and its intelligence service depends on the investigations which have now started. He said: In any case, we distinguish between the German people and their hireling intelligence service and subjugated government. As an effective member of the international community, we support the unity of the German nation, provided that Germany leaves both the Warsaw Pact and NATO and proclaims itself neutral and demilitarized.

Protest Staged at FRG Embassy

LD1503154190 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1435 GMT 15 Mar 90

[Text] The city of Tripoli was the scene of an angry mass demonstration this morning, condemning and denouncing the stand of West Germany against the Libyan Arab people.

A huge and angry crowd of the Arab masses in the Great Jamahiriyah took part in this demonstration and marched toward the West Germany Embassy in Tripoli.

Participants in this huge demonstration condemned the imperialist and Zionist conspiracy against the Arab nation and against the Libyan Arab people, who are striving to achieve progress in their land.

The angry demonstrators carried banners that said: Leave our country, you Germans; leave our homes, you spies and liars. You were the first ones to leak rumors. We do not need to deal with spies and agents.

In their revolutionary slogans, the protesters stressed the determination of the Libyan Arab people to proceed with the realization of their revolutionary choices, despite all the conspiracies of our enemies. These people, who have the authority, the revolution, and the weapons in their hands, will decide through their basic people's congresses to boycott all those who harbor enmity toward them and all those who make provacative threats and launch tendentious campaigns against them in a desperate attempt to undermine their opposition to the U.S. colonialist hegemony, and their continuous (?support) for the struggle of the people who fight for their freedom and sovereignty. They will also boycott all those who try to undermine their assiduous action for the unity of the Arab nation to which they belong.

Unknown Group Claims Responsibility

JN1503154290 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1500 GMT 15 Mar 90

[Text] A hitherto unknown organization called the Libyan Army's Pan-Arab Wing Organization [munazzamat al-janah al-qawmi fi al-jaysh al-libi] contacted the FRG television network ARD [acronym as heard] in Cairo this afternoon to claim responsibility for the Libyan factory fire. The organization also denounced the role of the FRG. It said it decided to burn the factory after learning that it manufactured chemical and nuclear materials.

Sudan

Army Claims 'Complete Control' of Bahr al-Ghazal

AB1303143090 Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 12 Mar 90

[Text] Major General Andrew Makol, the military governor of Bahr al-Ghazal Region, has said that the security situation in the region is tranquil and that the Armed Forces are in complete control of the situation in the region in general and in Wau in particular. Concerning the supply situation, he said his government had made great efforts to satisfy the need for food by transporting quantities of essential supplies to the people. The remainder of the supplies will be transported before autumn. The governor said Wau was suffering from the cost of transporting goods and the lack of gasoline and spare parts.

Meanwhile, Mr. Andrew Kual, the deputy governor of the region, this morning met chiefs, civic leaders and intellectuals in Wau. He briefed them on the steps taken by the revolution to bring about peace and the contacts made by the delegation of the national dialogue conference with East African states and the leaders of the rebel movement. He appealed to them to pool their official and popular efforts to achieve peace in the country.

Turns Back Rebel Attacks

EA1403122490 Khartoum SUNA in French 0918 GMT 14 Mar 90

[Text] Khartoum, 14 Mar (SUNA)—The Armed Forces have repelled an attack launched by rebels in Bahr al-Ghazal Region in southern Sudan, leaving 134 rebels dead and a number of others wounded, a communique released by the Armed Forces General Command yesterday evening stated. A number of vehicles belonging to the outlaws were destroyed, and 120 mortars, 30 Kalashnikov rifles, and a large quantity of ammunition were seized. According to the communique, three members of the Armed Forces died as a result of the offensive.

The communique also announced that the Armed Forces of Upper Nile Region had killed 52 outlaws during their attempt to infiltrate Malakal, the region's capital.

Meanwhile, the communique added that the friendly forces [Anyanya Two] had launched an attack on the rebel camps in the region, killing 17 outlaws and seizing eight guns. Three men of the friendly forces were killed during the attack.

Arabs, Fur Tribes Clash in Darfur Region

RCC Official: Security Restored

EA1403154990 Khartoum SUNA in French 0915 GMT 14 Mar 90

[Text] Khartoum, 14 Mar (SUNA)—Al-Tijani Adam al-Tahir, National Salvation Revolution Command Council [RCC] member and political supervisor of Darfur Region, returned to Khartoum after an inspection tour there. In a statement to the media soon after his arrival, Major General al-Tahir stressed that security had been restored throughout the region thanks to the efforts made by the popular committees, the reconciliation committees, the regional government, and security committees in the region.

Maj. Gen. al-Tahir said this visit fell within the framework of the efforts made by the regional government to establish security in the region. It should be noted that the press has recently published statements that security problems have been erupting in the area of Zalingei (in Darfur), which have resulted in some material damage and loss of life. In that regard, Maj. Gen. al-Tahir stressed that five subcommittees had been set up to examine the causes and effects of these subversive operations, referring to the [words indistinct] measures taken to prevent such operation.

69 Dead in Fighting

EA1403193890 Paris AFP in English 1812 GMT 13 Mar 90

[Text] Khartoum, March 13 (AFP)—Fighting between Arabs and Fur tribes people left 69 dead and 14 villages

burned to the ground in Sudan's western Darfur Region last week, the official SUNA news agency reported Tuesday.

The clashes were in the Shattaya region, where several outbreaks of violence have already been reported. SUNA gave no explanation of the latest incident.

Darfur's governor, General 'Abd-al-Qasim Ibrahim has ordered the rival groups to turn in their firearms, SUNA added.

Last July, Arabs and Fur representatives met in the Darfur capital, al- Fashir, at a reconciliation conference where they had agreed to compensate each other's communities for the effects of previous violence.

SPLA Notes 'Human Tragedy'

EA1503091590 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in English 1300 GMT 14 Mar 90

[Excerpts] Comrades-in-struggle, while the junta blows the trumpet of war and beats the drum, calling on the Muslim fundamentalist elements to build up the so-called people's defense force, the segregative and fascist policy of the junta is extending its atrocious hands to take the lives of unarmed civilians.

Last week, another human tragedy, similar to that of al-Jabalayn in December 1989, struck a Sudanese community of (Wad Salih) area, in Darfur. More than 69 innocent citizens of Fur nationality, including women and children were slaughtered in cold blood by their (Zakhawa) nationality neighbors. Several tens of people were wounded and 14 villages burnt to ashes. Although the government authority in the area is aware of this genocidal act, it has taken no steps to round up the culprits and bring them to book.

A report carried by SUNA and broadcast over some international media revealed that the governor of Darfur Region, Major General Abu-al-Qasim Ibrahim, even went to the area. This leaves one to conclude that the Arab militiamen were acting upon the instigation of the authorities. Evidence that this genocidal act was perpetrated against those innocent and law-abiding citizens with the official sanction of the government is overwhelming for the following reasons: One, the government in Khartoum has decided not to say anything about the incident; two, the government does not seem to investigate the incident and to bring the culprits to book.

The junta had announced towards the close of last year that they had resolved the conflicts between tribes in the region. Although the junta knows that (Zakhawa) tribesmen are armed, unlike their Fur victims, the junta's treatment of these atrocities as a mere quarrel reveals the sinister and inhuman policy pursued by the regime to exterminate certain nationalities of the Sudan, and it is further evidence of the junta's policy to divide the Sudanese people on racial lines. [passage omitted]

The failure of the Darfur authorities to investigate and bring to account the culprits of the (Wad Salih) massacre cannot surprise anybody. It is on record that the junta dismissed the administrator of al-Jabalayn for giving evidence of the involvement of the police in the al-Jabalayn massacre. This confirms that the junta, having tasted the bitterness of the present war, they over and again branded [as heard] they would win, now stared at certain Sudanese nationalities with hate. The junta is clearly bent on compounding the already serious problem of lack of stability and security in the country. It has clamped down on dissent and thereby made a mockery of its own so-called Salvation Command Council. This the junta has been doing and continues to do so by forming religious militia to fight a jihad and seeking to tear apart the Sudanese community on racial and tribal lines. 'Umar al-Bashir and his coup makers have sown the seed of a potentially massive conflagration that could destroy the country. The junta has become a cancer to the Sudanese people. It is a liability that the peace-loving Sudanese community cannot afford.

If the junta is to be taken seriously, they must carry out an independent investigation of the (Wad Salih) incident and bring the culprits to answer before the law. [passage omitted]

The Sudanese masses cannot and will not condone blatant racism and flagrant violation of human rights by the present junta, which must be condemned by all the Sudanese people and international opinion. It needs the coordinated efforts of the SPLA [Sudanese People's Liberation Army] and the Sudanese toiling masses to get rid of this Muslim fundamentalist regime in Khartoum, which is a cancer to the Sudanese people. Together we struggle for the creation of a new united democratic Sudan of justice, equality and progress for all.

To you, the junior officer in the Sudanese Army, the NCO [noncommissioned officer], and soldier of the Sudanese Army; to those in Juba, in Yei, in Lanya, and Kagwada faced with impending disarmament and arrest, we advise and urge you to act now. Save yourself before the bloodstained hand of the junta extends towards you and reaches you. 'Umar al-Bashir dreams of changing the historical trend of the country by trying to impose on the Sudanese people fascism and racial segregation. Let us together say no to the National Islamic Front junta, and with combined march of the SPLA and the Sudanese toiling masses, push it off the country's political platform.

'Ummah Party Leader Denounced for SPLA Links

EA0903134790 Khartoum SUNA in French 1510 GMT 7 Mar 90

[Excerpt] Khartoum, 7 Mar (SUNA)—In a statement issued to the news this morning, Major General al-Zubayr Muhammad Salih, vice-chairman of the National Salvation Revolution Command Council [NSRCC] and deputy prime minister, said the revolution

attaches particular importance to the strengthening of Sudanese external relations with neighboring countries, in addition to measures taken at all levels, so that peace can prevail throughout the country.

In the statement, Brigadier General [as received] Salih described the adherence of the fugitive Mubarak al-Mahdi [brother of former Prime Minister Sadiq al-Mahdi], one of the leaders of the Ummah Party, to the rebel movement of John Garang, as "treason" against the fatherland, adding that the rebels movement is a national affair, which is seeking to undermine the whole country without any [word indistinct].

In conclusion, the NSRCC vice chairman asserted that the ANSAR [partisans of Imam al-Mahdi] dissociated themselves from that act, which went against Sudanese national interests.

Political Detainees Reportedly To Be Freed

EA1103111890 Khartoum SUNA in English 1734 GMT 10 Mar 90

[Text] Khartoum, 10 March (SUNA)—Twenty-one trade unionists, detained since the eruption of the National Salvation Revolution last 30th June, announced minister of culture and information and official spokesman of the Sudanese Government, 'Ali Muhammad Shummu. [sentence as received]

Shummu declared that all the political detainees will also be freed within the coming few days with exception to those who were involved in financial corruption while they were assuming power before 30th June. "Those who were involved in corruption will face trial", confirmed Shummu.

Al-Bashir Confirms Release

EA1403173190 Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 14 Mar 90

[Text] Lieutenant General 'Umar Hasan Ahmad al-Bashir, chairman of the National Salvation Revolution Command Council [NSRCC], has explained that there are numerous quarters that are hostile to the revolution, and particularly abroad. His excellency pointed out that attempts to distort (?it) had very much affected Western public opinion. This came in an interview conducted with his excellency by the Voice of America radio.

Lt. Gen. 'Umar said those quarters tried to accuse the revolution of violating human rights in Sudan and torturing political detainees. His excellency confirmed that all the political detainees were released and are in the midst of the masses. He said none of them complained of any torture suffered in prison.

In the interview, Lt. Gen. 'Umar touched on the achievements of the revolution in all spheres. He explained the revolution had managed to control the free currency market and had managed to promote diplomatic work and to a large extent evaluate the civil service. He confirmed there were earnest efforts underway to finance the infrastructures in the country and propitious signs for finding the necessary financial backing for them despite the slowness of the International Monetary Fund.

Lt. Gen. 'Umar added that studies and attempts were being made at present to define the form of people's participation in authority to provide the opportunity to all the sons of the Sudanese people to participate effectively.

Tunisia

NAM Committee on Palestine Convenes in Tunis

LD1103234790 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 11 Mar 90

[Text] Meetings of the Nonaligned Movement [NAM] nine-man committee on Palestine began in Tunis this morning, in the presence of Palestinian president Yasir 'Arafat, to discuss the latest developments of the Palestinian question, the Middle East conflict, and the regional peace process.

During this meeting, the president of the state of Palestine made a speech in which he dwelled on the situation in the Middle East, especially inside the occupied territories in the light of the influx of Soviet Jews to these territories.

In this connection, president Yasir 'Arafat indicated that this influx violates international charters, and he called on the committee to work to avoid the repercussions of this emigration.

Following the Palestinian president's speech, the committee began general discussions, during which a number of delegations intervened. This committee was set up by the Nonaligned Movement's ninth summit, held last September in Belgrade. It is composed of Yugoslavia, Palestine, Algeria, India, Cuba, Bangladesh, Senegal, Zambia, and Zimbabwe.

PLO's 'Arafat Addresses Meeting

JN1203202290 Sanaa Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1600 GMT 12 Mar 90

[Text] Proceedings of the nine-man committee on Palestine formed from the nonaligned countries opened at 1000 yesterday in Tunis to discuss the dangers of Jewish emigration from the Soviet Union and East Europe, as well as ways to achieve a peaceful settlement in the Middle East and Palestine.

Brother Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat], president of the state of Palestine, attended the meetings, which were chaired by Mr. Budimir Loncar, Yugoslav federal secretary of foreign affairs, who focused in his speech on the need for convening an international peace conference in the Middle East. He also emphasized that Jewish immigration constitutes a violation of international law.

Brother Abu-'Ammar addressed the session. He stressed the need to hold an open session in the Security Council to discuss the peace process in the Middle East. He emphasized the importance of this meeting, which coincides with the convening of the Arab League Council. He said that the Palestinian side's insistence on convening this committee, specifically at this time, not only aims to allow the nonaligned countries to play a role in the Palestine question, the Palestinian-Israeli conflict, and the Arab-Israeli conflict, but also enables them to shoulder their responsibilities regarding international problems and issues.

He further said that we are going through an important stage, not only concerning the Palestine question, but also regarding international changes as a whole.

Abu-'Ammar spoke about the Malta summit between the two giants and the rivalry that ensued in view of recent international changes. He said that we are facing—frankly and clearly—a new Yalta and alliances in the international arena. This demands that we, as a Nonaligned Movement, should concentrate our efforts and redouble our efforts more than ever so that we might close the growing gaps as regards the latest international changes and the new international alliances.

Brother Abu-'Ammar talked about the celebrations of Namibia and its people and the celebrations of the Nonaligned Movement on Independence Day. He said: A week ago we celebrated with our friends under the sponsorship of [Zambian] President Kaunda the reception of hero Nelson Mandela, who was released after 27 years of imprisonment in the racist Pretorian regime's jails, and spoke with him. He indicated that this step came as a result of the South African people's struggle and the constant, unwavering stance of the Nonaligned Movement which supported them.

Brother Abu-'Ammar reviewed in his speech the struggle of our Palestinian people against the Israeli occupation which began 26 years ago. We have crowned this struggle with the blessed intifadah which is entering its 28th month—a peaceful and continuous intifadah againts Israeli occupation, suppression, racism, and Zionism, Abu-'Ammar added.

He also noted that about 1,100 martyrs have fallen on our side; 57 to 58,000 injured; 6,500 of them handicapped; 5,500 miscarriages as a result of use of internationally-prohibited chemical weapons and bombs, in addition to thousands of detainees—68,000 among whom are in the collective detention camps, which are considered worse than the collective detention Nazi camps used against the Europeans. Moreover, tens of thousands of hectares of fruit trees have been destroyed, and thousands of homes detonated, demolished, and sealed off.

Brother Abu-'Ammar talked about a new crime; that is, the issue of the Jewish immigration. He wondered: Where are the rights of the Palestinian individual? It is not acceptable that the rights of one group of individuals be attained at the expense of another people or group, Abu-'Ammar stated. Our people are facing the racist, Nazi Zionist policy in the land of Palestine, which is more dangerous than the prospect of expulsion being faced by the South African people.

Brother Abu-'Ammar indicated this immigration is not valid on grounds of human rights or the right to emigrate, which they are claiming. He added that this blatant aggression is not only directed against Palestine, but also at the Arab nation and the Palestinian people in particular. Thus, we have called the nonaligned countries, through this specialized committee which deals with the Palestine question—the nine-man committee. Abu-'Ammar asked: Does the process of mass immigration to Palestine help the peace process, or destroy it? (?Shamir) says immigration has contributed to raising the morale of Israelis. Therefore, it is possible that immigration will encourage them not to proceed with the peace process. He said that settling the new Jews on the Palestinian land destroys peace opportunities and hampers all the peace initiatives which were declared on the Palestinian and Arab levels.

He called on the nonaligned countries to advance the peace process in the Middle East in the face of the blatant maneuvering and procrastination by the Israeli Government, which aims to evade all peace initiatives. Brother Abu-'Ammar called on the Nonaligned Movement to shoulder its responsibilities and advance the Middle East peace process, especially before the exposed maneuvering and procrastination of the Israeli Government, which aims at escaping all peace initiatives.

Brother Abu-'Ammar also spoke about the Palestinian peace initiative, approved by the Palestine National Council on 15 November 1988, in order to establish a just, lasting peace in the region. At the same time he reviewed the steps taken after that—his announcement of a peace initiative in the name of the Palestinian people before the UN General Assembly, which was convened in Geneva 1988. Following the session, Resolution 176 was issued in the United Nations in support of the Palestinian initiative. This resolution held that peace in the Middle East is designed to consolidate the legitimate national rights of the Palestinian people, including their right to repatriation, self-determination, and the establishment of the independent Palestinian state. He pointed out the importance of implementing Resolutions 242 and 338, and the rest of the UN resolutions, including Resolutions 465, 3236, 3237, and other numerous resolutions which were issued by the UN General Assembly and the Security Council.

He also reviewed the beginning of the Palestinian-U.S. dialogue, which began in Tunisia and is still going on between the PLO and the U.S. Government, headed by brother Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh, head of the Palestinian delegation to the Palestinian-U.S. dialogue. He also indicated that up to now, the U.S. Administration has not upgraded the level of this dialogue. Although we

have assigned a member of the PLO's Executive Committee to head the Palestinian delegation, the U.S. level of representation has remained on a low level, Abu-'Ammar noted.

Brother Abu-'Ammar recalled the numerous initiatives proposed, including the initiative of the nonaligned countries, which adopted the Palestinian peace initiative, and the Casablanca summit. He explained that the Casablanca initiative has not only become a Palestinian peace initiative, but became a Palestinian-Arab peace initiative for the nonaligned countries; an African peace initiative after its adoption by the African summit in Addis Ababa; and an Islamic peace initiative after its adoption by the Islamic countries' foreign ministers. The European Economic Community [EEC] supported this initiative through the Strasbourg and Madrid statements. The Scandinavian countries also supported this initiative. One of these countries, Sweden, has exerted appreciated efforts for the Palestinian-U.S. dialogue.

Brother Abu-'Ammar underlined the position of the UN, the Arab and African summit, the nonaligned countries, the Islamic countries, and other countries, which emphasized that peace should be attained through an international peace conference under the auspices of the United Nations, with the participation of the UN Security Council member states, and all the parties concerned with the peace march, including the PLO.

Brother Abu-'Ammar also spoke about the initiative which was announced in Israel on the elections in Palestine. The Arab summit in Casablanca adopted the idea of elections, provided they take place after the end of the Israeli occupation of the Palestinian territories, under international supervision, and as part of the comprehensive peace process.

He also emphasized comrade Shevardnadze's tour in the region and his announcement in the name of the Soviet Union welcoming a Palestinian-Israeli dialogue in the USSR. Then, there were the attempts of the U.S. Administration with Egypt and the Arab League eight-man committee, which was established in accordance with a decision by the Arab summit in Algiers, headed by Algeria, and currently headed by brother [Algerian foreign minister] Ghazali. Through all these initiatives, Abu-'Ammar added, we as the PLO were ready to establish a dialogue with the Israeli Government, provided that it be a preliminary step for the international conference under international supervision, with the participation of the permanent member states in the Security Council and all the parties concerned, including the PLO.

Concluding his speech, brother Abu-'Ammar asked: What happened after all this? The Israeli Government rejected all these initiatives, including the 10 points proposed by Egypt—which are approved by the United States, as President Bush said; the EEC; the Scandinavian countries; the nonaligned countries; and the Soviet Union, as comrade Shevardnadze said; and by China and Japan. Despite all this, the Israeli Government rejected these points by six votes in the Inner Cabinet, and instead of supporting the six who accepted the 10 Egyptian points, the U.S. Government adopted a hardline policy. Baker's initiative came to adopt a hardline policy, instead of adopting the line that approved the 10 Egyptian points. Mr Baker proposed his initiative, which was approved by the PLO under clear conditions which we have announced and named to our Yugoslav brothers and friends.

Algerian Foreign Minister's Speech

LD1203231890 Algiers APS in English 1115 GMT 12 Mar 90

[Text] Tunis, 12 March (APS)—Foreign Minister Sid'Ahmed Seyed Ghazali condemned the silence observed by the international community before the massacres perpetrated against the intifadah and the spoilation of Palestinian lands.

Ghazali, who was speaking at the works of the seven-member committee of the Non-Aligned Movement on Palestine, noted that the Palestinian movement is getting through a historical phase which imposes on the Non-Aligned Movement and the peace-loving forces more mobilization in favor of this just cause and in favor of PLO, the sole representative of the Palestinian people.

Ahmed Seyed Ghazali recalled the particular and important conjuncture in which this meeting is held, namely the future of international relations and the radical transformations that took part in the world, mainly in eastern Europe, and their consequences. We see a lot of positive points in these transformations, he said, and we welcome them, as the Non-Aligned Movement has always called for the rapprochement between nations and peoples, for the settlement of ideological disputes and regional conflicts. He added that there is throughout the world a greater will of resort to peaceful means to settle conflicts as the old methods have proved vain and inefficient.

If we accept with satisfaction the peaceful methods in some beds of tension, we still deplore the plots women against the Palestinian people [as received] and the absence of indication for a solution of the Palestinian question on the basis of the recognition of the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people to self-determination, independence and the edification of a free and independent state in the Palestinian territory.

'Arafat, Cuba's Malmierca Meet

JN1203211090 Sanaa Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1600 GMT 12 Mar 90

[Text] Brother Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat], president of the state of Palestine, the day before yesterday received Cuban Minister of Foreign Relations Isidoro Malmierca. The meeting dealt with the latest developments in the Palestine question, efforts related to the peace process, and the work of the nine-man ministerial committee of the Nonaligned Movement on the Palestine question. The meeting was attended on the Cuban side by the head of the Middle East Department at the Cuban Foreign Ministry.

India's Gujral Meets Arab Leaders

BK1303033190 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 13 Mar 90

[Text] The Arab leaders have appreciated India's position on the Kashmir problem. They have told the external affairs minister, Mr. I.K. Gujral, that this issue must be resolved through bilateral dialogue between India and Pakistan in the spirit of the Simla agreement. Mr. Gujral, who is in Tunis to participate in the meeting of the Nonaligned Movement's Committee on Palestine, met the prime minister of Tunisia, Mr. Hamed Karoui, and foreign ministers of Egypt, Syria, Tunisia, Palestine, and Bahrain.

Qatar

PRC Foreign Minister Arrives in Doha 14 Mar

JN1403113890 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1038 GMT 14 Mar 90

[Text] Doha, 14 Mar (WAKH)—PRC Foreign Minister Qian Qichen arrived in Doha today on a three-day visit to Qatar. The PRC minister said that during the visit, he will hold talks with senior Qatari officials on bilateral relations, means of promoting them, and international issues of interest to both countries.

Saudi Arabia

Soviet Foreign Ministry Official Leaves Riyadh

LD1103161690 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 11 Mar 90

[Text] 'Abd-al-Rahman Mansuri, undersecretary in charge of political affairs at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, received Vladimir Polyakov, head of the Middle East and North Africa Department of the USSR Ministry of Foreign Affairs. During their meeting, held in Riyadh today, they discussed issues of common interest, the situation in the Middle East, especially the negative repercussions of emigration of Jews from the Soviet Union on peace efforts in the region, and also the stand of the Soviet Union regarding the settlement of the Afghan issue. They also reviewed developments in Lebanese. The Soviet diplomat reiterated his country's support for Lebanese legitimacy, the al-Ta'if agreement, and also the efforts of the higher tripartite Arab committee on Lebanon.

Mr. Polyakov left Riyadh later today, and was seen off by Ambassador Ja'far al-Laqani, director of the International Organizations Department and acting director of the Western Department, and deputy head of the Protocol Department at the Foreign Ministry.

Reportage on Egyptian Foreign Minister's Visit

Issues Arrival Statement

LD1203131690 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 0335 GMT 12 Mar 90

[Excerpts] Riyadh, 12 Mar (SPA)—Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, Egyptian deputy prime minister and foreign minister, has said that the proceedings of the second session of the joint Saudi-Egyptian commission should open the way for further cooperation between the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the Arab Republic of Egypt.

In a statement to SPA on his arrival in Riyadh early this morning, he expressed pleasure at the opportunity to participate for the second time in the proceedings of the commission, which begin today in Riyadh. [passage omitted]

In reply to a question on the transfer of the headquarters of the general secretariat of the Arab League to Cairo, the deputy prime minister and foreign minister of Egypt said: "Things have gone back to normal, and we are happy with the cooperation we found in His Highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal and all the brothers."

Joint Talks Underway

LD1203162190 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1015 GMT 12 Mar 90

[Excerpts] Riyadh, 12 Mar (SPA)—The proceedings of the second session of the Saudi-Egyptian joint committee started today before noon under the chairmanship of His Royal Highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, the foreign minister, and His Excellency Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister in Egypt. [passage omitted]

Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal said: In the Arab Gulf region the no war, no peace situation is still continuing, and the efforts of the UN secretary general to implement Security Council Resolution 598 are far from achieving the aspired peace based on relations of Islamic brotherhood, good neighborliness, mutual respect, and noninterference in internal affairs. [passage omitted] His highness added that within this framework we aspire to accomplish the procedures of the final signing of an agreement of economic, commercial, investment, and technical cooperation between the two countries, and to go along the path of supporting the national development effort in the two countries. We will also reexamine the ways of consolidating, developing, and expanding trade exchanges. [passage omitted] His highness said the meeting of our committee will give us the opportunity to examine the prospects of cooperation in the fields of culture, science, technology, data processing, and to review the possibilities available to activate and expand this cooperation. It will also provide the opportunity to equally examine the prospects of cooperation in the fields of transport, communications, telecommunications, postal services, and training. [passage omitted]

His Excellency the Egyptian deputy prime minister and foreign minister made a speech in which he expressed his profound happiness in his name and on behalf of the Egyptian delegation for their presence here to attend the proceedings of the second session. [passage omitted] He stressed that all aspire for the realization of other achievements in the field of transport, communications, electricity and energy, and said all these fields are directly connected to the interests of citizens in the two countries.

He pointed out that between the convening of the first session and the present, the Arab region has witnessed achievements which bring optimism and renew hopes in the Arab countries capability to find solutions to crises. It has also witnessed developments which foreshadow the worst consequences for security, peace, and stability in the Middle East, which will have a negative repercussion on efforts to find a just and comprehensive solution

to the Palestine issue and the Middle East crisis. [passage omitted] Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid said that the changes taking place in the Soviet Union and East European countries have begun to harm our national interests and threaten our security and our sovereignty over our territory. The successive waves of new Jewish emigrants to Israel and the possibility of their settlement in occupied Arab territories reminds us of the first waves of Jewish emigrants to Palestine before and after World War II. He expressed his hope that at its 93d session, due to end in Tunis today, the Arab League Council will reach an agreement on the ways and means of a joint Arab move to confront the effects of this Jewish migration to occupied Arab territories. [passage omitted] He expressed gratitude to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and to His Royal Highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal personally for the great role which he has played for reaching a decision on the Arab League's return to its permanent headquarters. [passage omitted]

Economic Accord Signed

LD1403122790 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 0922 GMT 13 Mar 90

[Excerpts] Riyadh, 13 Mar (SPA)—An agreement on economic, commercial, investment, and technical cooperation between the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the Arab Republic of Egypt was signed this morning at the Foreign Ministry in Riyadh. The signing took place in the presence of the heads of the two sides in the joint Saudi-Egyptian commission, His Royal Highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, the foreign minister; and His Excellency Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, the deputy prime minister and foreign minister of Egypt.

The agreement was signed on behalf of the Kingdom by his excellency the minister of finance and national economy, Muhammad Aba al-Khayl, and on behalf of the Egyptian Government by his excellency the minister of economy and foreign trade, Dr. Yusri Mustafa.

The agreement aims at encouraging economic and investment cooperation between the Kingdom and the Arab Republic of Egypt in various fields. The agreement also aims at the import and export of agricultural products, livestock, raw materials, mineral and non-mineral items, and finished and semi-finished products of local manufacture between the two countries.

The agreement also provides for the freedom of movement of capital and total freedom of investment in the areas permitted in the two countries.

The agreement also includes a number of guarantees for investment and provisions for relaxing controls in the field of transportation. [passage omitted]

Comments on Arab League HQ

LD1403230290 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 14 Mar 90

[Excerpts] Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, Egyptian deputy prime minister and foreign minister, expressed his thanks and consideration to King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, custodian of the two holy mosques, for his support for Egypt.

He recalled during a press conference held after the proceedings of the second session of the Saudi-Egyptian Committee in Riyadh today, Wednesday, the historic visit King Fahd made to Egypt last year and the meeting and welcome given him—may God protect him—by his brother His Excellency President Muhammad Husni Mubarak, the officials and the Egyptian people with all its constituents. [passage omitted]

Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, was asked about the date fixed for the return of the Arab League headquarters to Cairo and whether this date is September or March. He pointed out it was agreed it will be announced in September. He added that until that announcement is made, the five-man committee—set up by the ministerial council of the Arab foreign ministers, composed of Iraq, the Sultanate of Oman, Morocco, Tunisia, and Egypt, and the Arab League secretary general—will discuss all aspects implementing this decision. He affirmed matters are progressing in an atmosphere of eagerness for understanding and eagerness to arrive at a solution that will satisfy both sides—Egypt and Tunisia. Replying to a question on whether Arab League Secretary General Chedli Klibi will remain in office, Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid said: Yes, he will finish his term.

Joint Communique Issued

LD1503002590 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 14 Mar 90

[Text] A joint news release was issued today Wednesday on the results of the second session of the joint committee for bilateral cooperation between the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the Arab Republic of Egypt. Here follows the text:

On the basis of the fraternal relations and close ties between the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the Arab Republic of Egypt, in implementation of the recommendations of the servant of the two holy places, King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Sa'ud of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, and President Muhammad Husni Mubarak of the Arab Republic of Egypt, and on the basis of the agreement for setting up the joint committee for bilateral cooperation, which was signed in Cairo on 21 March 1989, at the end of the historic visit which was made by King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Sa'ud, to the Arab Republic of Egypt during the period between 27 and 31 March 1989, the second session of the joint committee for bilateral cooperation between the Arab Republic of Egypt and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia was held in Riyadh from 12 to 14 March 1990. The Saudi side was

chaired by His Royal Highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, the foreign minister of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, and was composed of His Excellency Mr. Muhammad Aba al-Khayl, minister of finance and national economy, and His Excellency Mr. Husayn al-Mansuri, the minister of communications.

The Egyptian side was chaired by Dr. Ahmad 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister of the Arab Republic of Egypt, and was composed of engineer Sulayman Mutawali Sulayman, minister of transport, communications and maritime transport; Dr. Yusri Mustafa, minister of economy and foreign trade; and Dr. Muhyi al-Din al-Gharib, chairman of the executive board of the general establishment of investments.

The meeting was attended by high-ranking officials from the concerned ministries, bodies, and institutions of the two countries. A number of businessmen from the two countries participated also in the proceedings of the joint committee.

His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdallah Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, crown prince, deputy prime minister and chief of the National Guard, received the heads of the Egyptian and Saudi sides at the joint committee, Dr. Ahmad 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, and His Royal Highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal.

In implementation of the contents of the agreement on setting up the joint committee between the Arab Republic of Egypt and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, according to which the duties of the committees include consultation and coordination in matters of concern to the two countries, the foreign ministers of the two countries intensively reviewed the Arab, Islamic, African, and international issues of common interest and praised the full cooperation and coordination on these issues between the delegations of the two fraternal countries in all the Arab, Islamic, regional, and international conferences and meetings. They also expressed their determination to continue this coordination on all levels during Arab, Islamic, and international conferences and meetings in the coming period.

The two sides expressed their complete satisfaction at the achievements in the field of clearing the Arab atmosphere to make available opportunities to carry out joint and effective Arab action in the service of Arab causes and to achieve Arab solidarity in order to face the various challenges. They expressed their satisfaction with the Arab League Council's resolution at its 93d session concerning the return of the Arab League General Secretariat to its permanent headquarters in Cairo in accordance to Article 10 of the charter. This matter is likely to strengthen Arab solidarity.

The two sides expressed their support for the uprising of the Palestinian people which continues its brave march in order to face the savage repression operations practised by the Israeli authorities of occupation against the Palestinian people.

The Egyptian side reviewed the efforts being made for the achievements of a just settlement and peace in the region. The Saudi side expressed its great consideration for the efforts being made by the Arab Republic of Egypt in this respect with full coordination with the PLO in order to enable the Palestinian people to recover its legitimate rights. They praised the constructive line followed by the PLO with regard to the peaceful efforts aiming at solving the Palestinian problem. In this respect, the two sides reviewed the changes taking place in the Soviet Union and the East European states and the accompanying preparation of programs orientated toward the collective emigration of Soviet Jews to Israel and launching the settlement of some of them in occupied Arab territories. This matter, which is considered a violation of the fourth Geneva's convention, constitutes a threat to the future of the occupied Arab territories, has a negative effect on the comprehensive peace process in the region, and leads to the destabilization of the region.

The two sides called on the states which allow the emigration of their subjects to obtain sufficient gurantees on the non-settlement of their refugees in occupied Arab territories. The two sides exchanged views on the steps to be taken in order to face this new challenge in the light of what was decided in the Arab League meetings and the joint Arab move with the concerned states. The two sides agreed on the continuation of consultation and exchange of views at Arab and Islamic levels and at other international meetings in order to follow up this issue.

The two sides reviewed the developments of the Lebanese issue and the achievements which have been realized in the Lebanese arena on the basis of the al-Ta'if agreement. In this respect the Egyptian side reaffirmed its support for this agreement and for the sincere efforts which the Arab Higher Tripartite Committee in charge of implementing the resolution of the extraordinary Arab summit in Casablanca on Lebanon, has made and is still making. The Egyptian side expressed great consideration for the distinguished and prominent role played by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, under the leadership of the servant of the two holy places, for the sake of making the mission of the committee succeed. The two sides expressed their conviction that these sincere efforts and the full Arab and international support for them will lead to the consolidation of Lebanese legitimacy and extend its full sovereignty on all Lebanese territory within the framework of a national reconciliation. The committee stressed the importance of supporting Lebanese legitimacy and cooperating with it and emphasized the efforts in Arab and international contexts in order to enable Lebanon to stand on its feet by contributing to the programs of reconstruction.

The two sides expressed their support for the initiative of the UN secretary general and the Iraqi initiative aiming at achieving peace and stability, solving the problems between Iraq and Iran by peaceful means and at turning the cease-fire between the two Islamic countries into a real peace based on strong foundations in a way liable to secure security and stability for the whole region and to

enable both Iraq and Iran to direct their resources toward development and construction.

The two sides expressed their full satisfaction with the identity of their viewpoints on the various issues raised. This matter will have repercussions on coordinating their stances at the various Arab, Islamic, regional, and international meetings.

Meetings between the participating ministers from both sides were held in the framework of the joint committee. Meetings of sub-committees were also held in this framework, in order to discuss the various aspects of bilateral relations between the two countries in all fields concerning the economic, commercial, technical, and investment fields and to consolidate cultural and information relations as well as to discuss consular and other affairs.

During the convening of the second session of the joint committee for bilateral cooperation between the Arab Republic of Egypt and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, an agreement on economic and commercial, investment, and technical cooperation was signed between the two sides. It was signed on the Egyptian side by Dr. Yusri Mustafa, minister of economy and foreign trade, and on the Saudi side by His Excellency Muhammad Aba al-Khayl, minister of finance and national economy.

Out of the concern of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia for supporting the Egyptian national effort for development, and out of its eagerness to contribute with the most that its resources and circumstances can allow in supporting and speeding up development in Egypt, the Egyptian side was informed of the determination of the Saudi fund of development to contribute to the financing of three projects which were submitted to the mission of the fund which visited Egypt in June 1989. The Egyptian side praised the contribution of the Saudi fund of development to the projects of the economic and social development plan in Egypt, expressed its consideration for the action of the fund, and hoped that this cooperation would continue.

The two sides followed up the issue of building a road linking the Arab Republic of Egypt and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and pointed out the importance of speeding up the completion by both sides of the study of this project and of setting up a joint committee to follow up the achievement of studies related to this project.

The Egyptian side expressed its deep thanks and consideration for the hospitality and welcome accorded to the Egyptian delegation in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the good organization and preparation, which had the great effect of making the proceedings of the session succeed.

The two sides agreed to hold the third session of the joint committee for bilateral cooperation between the Arab Republic of Egypt and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia in Cairo in November 1990.

Issued in the city of Riyadh on Wednesday 14 March 1990

Foreign Minister Meets UK Defense Secretary

LD1403205290 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 14 Mar 90

[Text] Foreign Minister His Royal Highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal met this morning in his office with His Excellency Tom King, the British secretary of state for defense, who is currently visiting the Kingdom. During the meeting, bilateral relations and issues of mutual concern were discussed.

United Arab Emirates

Minister Receives Message From Iran's Velayati

JN1303164290 Manama WAKH in English 1600 GMT 13 Mar 90

[Text] Abu Dhabi, March 13 (GNA)—UAE [United Arab Emirates] State Minister for Foreign Affairs Rashid 'Abdallah received a written message from Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati dealing with issues on the agenda of the Islamic foreign ministers conference due to be held in Cairo next June. The message was delivered by Iranian ambassador to the UAE 'Ali Hadi Najafabadi during a meeting with Rashid 'Abdallah here today.

Lebanese President Sends Message to Shaykh Zayid

JN1403161890 Manama WAKH in English 1550 GMT 14 Mar 90

[Text] Abu Dhabi, March 14 (GNA)—President Shaykh Zayid bin-Sultan Al Nuhayyan today received a letter from Lebanese President Ilyas al-Hirawi dealing with the situation in Lebanon and bilateral ties. It was conveyed by Lebanese Finance Minister 'Ali al-Khalil.

Official Confers With UK's Peter Morrison

JN1403183990 Manama WAKH in English 1640 GMT 14 Mar 90

[Text] Abu Dhabi, March 14 (GNA)—Abu Dhabi Crown Prince and Deputy Supreme Commander of the UAE [United Arab Emirates] Armed Forces Shaykh Khalifah Bin-Zayid Al Nuhayyan received today British Minister of State for Energy Affairs Peter Morrison. They discussed a number of issues especially in oil industry and ways to boost cooperation.

The meeting was attended by UAE Petroleum and Mineral Resources Minister Man' Said al-'Utaybah, member of the Executive Council 'Ali Bin-Ahmad al-Zahiri, secretary general of Supreme Petroleum Council and Director General of Abu Dhabi National Oil Company Suhayl Faris al-Mazru'i and British ambassador Graham Stewart.

Yemen Arab Republic

Soviet Foreign Ministry Official Arrives in Sanaa

JN1103174390 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 11 Mar 90

[Excerpt] Vladimir Polyakov, head of the Middle East and North Africa Department at the USSR Ministry of Foreign Affairs, today arrived in Sanaa on a several-day visit to our country. He is to hold talks with the brother officials in the Foreign Ministry on developments in the Middle East. [passage omitted]

Meets Salih, Conveys Message

JN1303133090 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 13 Mar 90

[Text] Brother Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the Republic, commander in chief of the Armed Forces, and secretary general of the General People's Congress, received in his office in Ta'izz Vladimir Polyakov, head of the Middle East and North Africa Department at the USSR Foreign Ministry, who conveyed to the brother president a message from Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev. The message deals with the current international developments, issues of mutual interest, and bilateral relations. The message also includes the Soviet leadership's support and blessing for the current historic Yemeni event represented by the efforts being made to reunite Yemen given that unity constitutes one of the important factors of security, stability, and peace in the region.

During the meeting, discussions dealt with Yemeni-Soviet relations and means to enhance them and promote the fields of joint cooperation between the two friendly countries in the service of joint interests of the Yemeni and Soviet peoples. The two sides also reviewed the current regional and international developments, in addition to a number of issues of interest to the two friendly countries.

The brother president asked Polyakov to convey his greetings to the Soviet leadership and wishes of further success for Soviet leader Gorbachev and his new policy to effect further transformations which serve the progress of the Soviet people and enhance world security, stability, and peace.

The meeting was attended by Brother Dr. 'Abd-al-Karim al-Iryani, deputy prime minister, foreign minister, and general committee member; Dr. 'Abd-al-Karim [name indistinct], Foreign Ministry under secretary; and Veniamin Popov, the USSR ambassador in Sanaa.

Confers With Foreign Minister

JN1303203290 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 13 Mar 90

[Text] Brother Dr. 'Abd-al-Karim al-'Iryani, deputy prime minister, foreign minister, and General Committee member, met in Ta'izz today with Vladimir Polyakov, head of the Middle East and North Africa Department at the USSR Foreign Ministry, currently visiting our country. During the meeting, they discussed bilateral relations and exchanged views on regional and international developments.

The meeting was attended by brother Dr. 'Abd-al-Jalil Samrah, under secretary of the Foreign Ministry, and Veniamin Popov, USSR ambassador in Sanaa.

'Joint Communique' on YAR-Djibouti Relations

JN1403150690 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 14 Mar 90

["Text" of joint communique on Djibouti Prime Minister Barkat Gourad Hamadou's visit to the YAR issued on 14 March in Sanaa]

[Text] Arising from the fraternal relations between the Yemen Arab Republic [YAR] and the Republic of Djibouti, which are strengthened by bonds of history and neighborliness; in implementation of the directives of the two political leaderships to develop cooperation between the two fraternal countries; and in continuation of regular contacts for coordination and negotiation; Djibouti Prime Minister Barkat Gourad Hamadou officially visited the YAR 10 to 14 March 1990, responding to the official invitation from his brother 'Abd-al-'Aziz 'Abd-al-Ghani, YAR prime minister and General Committee member.

During this visit, brother Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the Republic, commander in the chief of the Armed Forces, and secretary general of the General People's Congress, received Prime Minister Barkat Gourad Hamadou and his delegation.

Brother Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih has assigned a number of educational places in the accredited colleges of Sanaa University, secondary schools, and schools of higher education, for students from Djibouti.

Prime Minister Barkat Gourad Hamadou visited the governorates of Ma'rib and Ta'izz. He expressed his admiration for the development and modern growth in Yemen.

The talks, which were held in an atmosphere of brotherhood and mutual understanding, resulted in agreements to organize bilateral relations in many fields. First, regarding bilateral relations, the following agreements were signed:

—An agreement to set up a joint committee between the two countries chaired by the two foreign ministers.
—An agreement on economic and trade cooperation.
—An agreement on educational and scientific cooperation.
—An agreement on technical and administrative cooperation between the two interior ministries.
—A protocol to implement the agreement of technical and administrative cooperation between the two interior ministries.

Second, in the field of telecommunications, the YAR indicated its readiness to provide education and training scholarships at the Sanaa Telecommunications College for outstanding Djibouti students.

Thirdly, the two sides agreed to coordinate and cooperate in combatting the pollution of seas and shores and to protect the environment. They also agreed to cooperate, coordinate, and exchange expertise and information in earthquake monitoring and to assign specialists in the two countries to make the necessary preparations.

Djibouti expressed its complete support for the steps being taken to achieve Yemeni unity and its great joy over the Yemeni leaders' and sons' efforts to bring about full Yemeni unity—land and people.

Regarding the Palestine question, the two sides expressed their total and unlimited support for the Palestinian people's cause and their legitimate right to set up their independent state on their national soil under the leadership of their sole legitimate representative, the PLO.

The two sides also expressed great concern over the waves of Jewish emigration from the Soviet Union and East Europe to the occupied Arab territories. They condemn the settling of these emigrants in the occupied Arab territories. The two sides call on the United Nations and the UN Security Council to shoulder their responsibilities to prepare international agreements on preserving the character of the occupied territories.

Regarding the Horn of Africa and the disputes there, the two sides reaffirmed the necessity of solving all these disputes through peaceful dialogue to establish the security and safety of the region and its people, who are bound together by relations of brotherhood, neighborliness, and various other bilateral links.

Regarding the security of the Red Sea, the two sides reaffirmed the need to preserve the Red Sea as a region of peace and security, and that its security is the duty of its littoral states.

Djibouti expressed its thanks to the Yemenis for the great hospitality its delegation received during the visit.

Prime Minister Barkat Gourad Hamadou invited his brother 'Abd-al-'Aziz 'Abd-al-Ghani, prime minister and General Committee member, to visit Djibouti. The [YAR] prime minister accepted the invitation gratefully. The date will be determined later.

The talks concluded with the two sides praising the attention and care given to the citizens and subjects of both countries from all specialized sides, which affirms the strength of ties between them.

Issued in Sanaa on Wednesday 17 Sha'ban 1410 Hejira, coinciding with 14 March 1990 AD.

Djibouti Prime Minister Departs 14 Mar

JN1403150490 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 14 Mar 90

[Excerpt] Brother Djibouti Prime Minister Barkat Gourad Hamadou and his delegation left Sanaa this morning after an official five-day visit to our country. He was accorded an official sendoff. Heading those seeing him off at Sanaa international airport was 'Abd-al-'Aziz 'Abd-al-Ghani, prime minister and General Committee member. [passage omitted]

'Text' of RCC Decision To Grant Kurds Amnesty

JN1403183890 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 14 Mar 90

["Text" of decision issued by the Revolution Command Council, RCC, granting a general amnesty to "Iraqi Kurds who fled Iraqi territory"; date not given]

In the name of God, the Merciful, the Compassionate. Decision. The RCC. Decision No. 144. Date of decision: 14 March 1990, corresponding to 17 Sha'ban 1410 Hegira.

In accordance with the provisions of Clause A of Article 48 of the Constitution, the RCC has decided the following:

First, the Iraqi Kurds who fled Iraqi territory are granted a general amnesty and all legal proceedings against them for all the crimes that they committed are lifted, provided that they return to the homeland during the period in which this decision will be in force.

Second, the crimes of premeditated killing, theft, and crimes not related to the fighting in northern Iraq are not covered by this decision.

Third, this decision takes effect as of 11 March 1990 and remains in force until 11 May 1990.

Fourth, the competent ministers and concerned agencies shall implement the provisions of this decision.

[Signed] Saddam Husayn, RCC Chairman

Reportage on British 'Spy' Confession, Execution

Jordan's King Attempts To Intervene

JN1403141690 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1220 GMT 14 Mar 90

[Excerpts] Iraqi President Saddam Husayn cannot in the present circumstances use his right of granting amnesty to reduce the death sentence recently handed down in Baghdad on British journalist of Iranian origin Farzad Bazoft. This was stated by an Iraqi Foreign Ministry spokesman, who was commenting on statements and appeals in London and other capitals in favor of the convicted journalist. [passage omitted]

The British Government and several states and organizations have asked the Iraqi Government to reduce the sentence against Bazoft. King Husayn also announced in London yesterday that he had sent a message to the Iraqi president, asking him to intervene to prevent the implementation of the death sentence against Bazoft.

Bazoft Executed 'This Morning'

JN1503064090 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0630 GMT 15 Mar 90

[Text] Baghdad, 15 Mar (INA)—The death sentence passed on Farzad Rabati Bazoft, a British subject spy of Iranian origin, was carried out this morning. An Iraqi court had earlier sentenced Bazoft after convicting him, and after he had admitted spying for the British and Israeli intelligence services.

Bazoft's 'Confessions' Published

JN1503074890 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0640 GMT 15 Mar 90

[Text] Baghdad, 15 Mar (INA)—The confessions made by Zionist spy Farzad Bazoft, which he personally wrote in English, took the lead in the main headlines of Iraqi papers published today. AL-THAWRAH, AL-JUMHURIYAH, AL-QADISIYAH, AL-'IRAQ, and BAGHDAD OBSERVER, appeared with the following headlines: Farzad Bazoft confesses:

"I worked for and dealt with the Israelis from 1984 to 1985."
"I was tasked to take photos of military equipment and Iraqi forces."
"I visited Salman Pak area to gather information about the Iraqi nuclear plant."
"I was tasked to prepare reports on bridge defenses in Baghdad and security measures in the capital."
"I was tasked to observe the security and specialized defenses, and take photos of the site of an explosion that took place in al-Hillah, to assess the impression of the residents of the area, and to collect specimens of ashes and burned material."
"The spy admits that he has strong links with the Zionists and the British secret police."
"In his own hand writing, Bazoft makes a full confession of his criminal espionage against Iraq."
"The spy: I received financial rewards in return for collecting information about Iraq."
"I was tasked to take photos of everything, especially soldiers and military equipment."

Following is the text of the confessions.

Question: Tell us briefly about your life.
Answer: I am Farzad Rabati Bazoft. I was born in the city of Masjed-e Soleyman on 22 May 1958. I am the eldest child in the family. I have two brothers and one sister. My father's name is (Maqiti) and my mother's name is (Nosrat). Both are of Iranian nationality. My sister's name is (Farzunah). My brothers are Farhad, who is a political refugee in Pakistan; and (Ishin), who is also a refugee in Denmark.

Question: Do you work for a foreign intelligence agency; which one, and when did your relationship begin with it; give details?
Answer: Yes, I work and I deal with the Israelis and the British Special Branch "the Secret Police." My acquaintanceship and meetings began with British police officers in the summer of 1984 or 1985.

I began the first contacts when I was helping a pro-Shah Iranian in London. He was Mohammad Entizari, president of the (Saziman Mubarizin Iran) which means

Iranian Fighters Organization. This person lived, and is still living, in Croydon, West London. His office was in the same place where he lived. I was introduced to him by another Iranian.

The first visit was to al-Faw in 1988. Michael [not further identified] tasked me on this trip to take photos of everything, especially soldiers, military equipment, and any sign indicating the possibility of both sides using chemical weapons. I took photos of burned Iranian tanks as instructed by the Ministry of Information. I also took photos of defense lines which were held by Iranians, empty artillery shells, large ammunition boxes which were left behind by Iranians, bridgeheads on the Shatt al-'Arab which the Iranians had set up in order to build bridges, Iranian trucks in Ra's al-Bishah, and oil tanks. I also took photos of Mahir 'Abd-al-Rashid [an Iraqi commander] lunching with news correspondents at Al-Faw's gateway, Iranians crossing the river, electricty pylons, concrete positions, names of schools and stores which the Iranians had changed, and Iraqi soldiers showing the "V" sign. THE OBSERVER received copies of the same photos which I gave to Michael. The report I submitted to Michael included [sentence incomplete]. The attack was sudden. The Iranians were taken by surprise. I did not see many bodies. In fact, I hardly saw any. It seems that the Iranians fled during the attack. There were no signs or evidence of the use of chemical weapons from the British Embassy in Baghdad. [as received]

They denied any use of chemical weapons. The full destruction was evident in al-Faw as a result of the battles that took place therein. We have not seen many tanks and it seemed the Iraqi Air Force played major role during the battles of liberation. This is what the British Embassy has also emphasized. I also wrote that Baghdad appeared as normal as any other capital, but with the intensive presence of police and the Army in the streets at night. There were many wedding parties in grand hotels. Michael did not comment on the report, but he criticized the photos and said they were bad; he paid 300 pounds as a reward.

The sources from which I received some information were the British military attache, the Indian Embassy, the turbaned man, and my own observation. The Iraqi Ministry of Culture and Information processed one or two films for me to send them to the paper I work for.

The second visit was to al-Shalamjah during May and June 1988. Michael asked me to take photos of everything in al-Shalamjah, observe use of chemical weapons, and the general situation in Baghdad. I took photos of Chieftain tanks left by the Iranians, Iranian corpses in the defensive positions. Iraqi soldiers firing in the air out of joy, a partially destroyed house previously occupied by the Iranians, palm trees damaged by shelling, ammunition left by the Iranians in the defensive lines they had been using, Iranian POW's in an army camp, military vehicles and soldiers during trips to and from al-Shalamjah. I said in my typewritten report to Michael: It seems the Iranians were killed by bullets or bomb shells rather than chemical weapons. I found some Iranian anti-chemical material, and when inspected them found them not used and I found that the Iranians were taken by surprise. They paid heavy human losses this time, as well as losses in hardware inflicted by the Iraqi Air Force and the heavy artillery shelling which led to the victory.

The British Embassy informed me once again that Iraq was going ahead with the liberation of all its territories, and that it was only a matter of time. The situation in Baghdad seemed normal and there were no fears. The prevailing conditions were similar to those after the liberation of al-Faw; cinemas and markets were full of people at night, and a large number of young men were seen in the streets in the evening. Foodstuffs and daily necessities were available, and there were no queues. He paid me 200 pounds for that. Two or three days later, however, he returned the pictures and the report to me without any explanation, but he said he might ask for them later. His only question was about chemical weapons and I told him I was sure there was no use of chemical weapons. I received confirmation from the British Embassy as regards the nonuse of chemical weapons, but I did not mention this in the report.

The third visit, Zubaydat, July 1988. Before coming here, Michael tasked me this time with the following issues: the color of shoes worn by the men in the security organs; security measures on the bridges; morning and evening traffic in Baghdad; whether there are queues for foodstuffs; or any other issues. He did not ask me to take photos of anything. I did not give him an answer on the color of the shoes, because I found that ridiculous. Regarding protection on the bridges, I told him that the country is in a state of war; therefore, the bridges are very well protected. As for traffic in Baghdad, it flows quite well and there are no queues for foodstuffs or other things. It seems that the Iranians withdrew without resistance and that the mujahidin are in good condition, according to what I heard from the rest of the journalists who were travelling around Baghdad in their cars. I told him that orally. He took notes on that and paid me 100 pounds [sterling]. He did not indicate any interest in the information I gave him or in the remarks I made.

The fourth visit, Baghdad, December 1988. Before coming to Baghdad, he asked me for information on the site of the Iraqi nuclear reactor. However, he did not clarify or expand on that. I tried to go to Salman Pak. Actually, I went there by taxi from the hotel. I saw nothing. In Salman Pak village, I spoke to an Egyptian shoe vendor who told me that business was good. After the driver and I spent some time in one of the cafes, we went back to Baghdad. I went to the British Embassy and spoke to them about the tour I was planning to make to Basra. I went to Basra to report the reconstruction campaign along with one of the employees of the Culture and Information Ministry. When I visited the British and Indian Embassies, I asked questions about the nuclear reactor. However, I got no substantial information from either of them. I conducted an interview with

Information Minister Latif Nusayyif Jasim which was published by THE OBSERVER. But it did not publish the report I had prepared on the Basra reconstruction campaign. After returning to London, I met with Michael, and we had dinner together. I did not give him any photos or reports, but I had a conversation with him and told him that I had not managed to get anything concerning the nuclear reactor.

The fifth visit—the foundation of the Arab Cooperation Council—February 1989. Michael asked me to investigate the political situation in general during this visit. When I returned, I told him orally, based on what I heard and felt during the press conference held by Foreign Minister Tariq 'Aziz, that the issue of peace with Iran and construction was Iraq's top priority. I added that the question posed by Western correspondents in Baghdad is how can Iraq finance some of the post-war projects. I also told him that Iraq has an almost $16 billion debt and that it imported 1 million tonnes of wheat and the U.S. Government promised to guarantee Iraq in case it could not pay for it. This time I did not give him a report. The conversation here took place over the telephone and he did not give me any money this time. The sources of information on which I depended this time were the U.S., German, and British Embassies.

The sixth visit—September 1989—to cover elections in Kurdistan. Michael told me about the explosion in al-Hillah before it was published in the newspapers. It was published in THE INDEPENDENT the day I left London for Iraq. Michael asked me to note the protection and defenses allocated for the position and the security measures taken in the area, and asked for photographs of the position. He told me that the place in question is located in a village near al-Hillah. He added: You should monitor the words and impressions of the people living inside and outside the area. In the meantime, the newspaper asked me to field cover this incident.

The samples of ash and burned material I had gathered were merely an accidental issue, where I assumed that their presence by the side of the road was the result of being scattered from the site of the explosion. I telephoned the newspaper from Baghdad and I read out a good article I had written about the accident which took place in al-Hillah. The newspaper refused to publish that article, and Michael did not get any of the things he tasked me with because Mrs. Daphne, the British nurse working at Ibn-al-Bitar Hospital, and myself were arrested.

I met Mrs. Daphne for the first time in Baghdad in 1988 when I was staying at al-Mansur Melia Hotel. I had heard from journalists that British and Irish nurses work in Ibn-al-Bitar Hospital. I also heard from some British and Europeans who were having a drink at the bar of the hotel that apartment complex No. 34 in al-Salihiyah is teeming with women with whom one can have a relationship. Therefore, I decided to telephone Ibn-al-Bitar Hospital to write about the life of the nurses and how they spend their time.

And I did call up the hospital, but to no avail. I went to the hospital in a taxicab belonging to the hotel. After being received there, I asked about the possibility of seeing one of the British people, the manager, or any other responsible person. I introduced myself as a journalist working for THE OBSERVER. A British lady received me. The hotel driver was with me. After I introduced myself, she accompanied the driver and myself to the hospital cafeteria. I told her about my wish to write about the hospital and the Irish and British employees in it.

Bazoft Tells UK Consul: 'Not a Spy'

JN1503103890 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1000 GMT 15 Mar 90

[Text] The body of British reporter Bazoft was handed over to the British Embassy in Baghdad this morning. Robin Kelly, British consul general in Baghdad, who met with Bazoft for 30 minutes shortly before his execution this morning, said the British reporter repeatedly emphasized to him that he was not a spy but was only performing his job as a professional journalist.

Papers Show Photos, Confession

JN1503120590 Baghdad INA in English 1050 GMT 15 Mar 90

[Excerpt] Baghdad, Mar 5, INA—The today Iraqi newspapers published photos of the original confession in Bazoft's own handwriting and signed by himself in which he confessed to his crime of spying against Iraq and recounted how the Israeli intelligence and British Special Branch (Secret Service) recruited him in London.

The dailies AL-THAWRAH, AL-JUMHURIYAH, AL-QADISIYAH and English-language BAGHDAD OBSERVER carried also pictures taken by Bazoft displaying a prohibited area where he and his accomplice Daphne Parish in espionage trespassed. The photos also show samples of material picked by Bazoft from an area where a military installation is sited, and specimens of medical tubes supplied to Bazoft by his British accomplice Daphne Parish to place in the samples collected from the site of the military installation.

Bazoft recounted his activities in Iraq during several visits he made to the country, passing as a journalist for the British newspaper "THE OBSERVER" from April 1988 through September 1989, the last mission in which he was presumably to cover the elections in Iraq's Kurdistan legislative council. [passage omitted]

Paper Criticizes Current, Past U.S. Proposals

JN1303160690 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0710 GMT 13 Mar 90

[Text] Baghdad, 13 Mar (INA)—The newspaper AL-THAWRAH criticized today proposals made by U.S. Secretary of State James Baker to hold elections in the occupied Arab territories.

Commenting on U.S. proposals that support the Zionist entity, the newspaper says: These proposals, which were clearly rejected by the Arab citizens in the occupied territories, are part of same plans and proposals constantly made by this and previous U.S. Administrations to allow the Zionist entity to escape the impasse brought about by the valiant Palestinian intifadah.

The newspaper says that previous experience proves that the United States was, and still is, fully biased in favor of the Zionist party and that all its actions are part of a constant effort to resolve that entity's crises and enable it to pursue its aggressive policy against the Arab nation.

The newspaper also refers to measures adopted by the U.S. Administration during former President Jimmy Carter's term in office that supported and backed the Zionist entity and impaired the Palestinian Arab people's liberty and their efforts to regain their freedom and independence on the soil of their homeland.

The newspaper says that holding elections in occupied Palestine in accordance with the proposal suggested by Baker, by which the PLO would be excluded, constitutes a treacherous attempt to dissipate the intifadah's momentum and to split its ranks, and, at the same time, to preserve intact every aspect of arrogant Zionist aggressiveness.

AL-THAWRAH says that proposals made by consecutive U.S. Administrations have not been substantially different from the Rogers Plan, although they may have been different in (?details).

The newspaper speculates about the reasons behind the growing differences between the two parties in the Jewish coalition, particularly over the Palestinian Arab people's rights. The newspaper writes that it has been proved that these difference have always been part of a Zionist ploy to exploit the time factor and study the reactions of the parties concerned with the Palestine question.

Concluding its commentary, the paper stresses that the objective of the American and Zionist proposals is clear, and that the Zionists have not recognized the rights of the Palestinian people, who have decided to regain all of their legitimate rights on the land of Palestine.

U.S. Role in Jewish Emigration Criticized

JN1403122090 Baghdad INA in English 1010 GMT 14 Mar 90

[Text] Baghdad, Mar 14, INA—AL-THAWRAH daily of Baghdad called for organizing a world-wide Arab campaign especially inside the Soviet Union, East European countries and the United States aimed at expounding the Arab stance and disclosing dangers of the Soviet Jews immigration in occupied Palestine.

In its commentary for today, the paper said that the newcomers from the Soviet Union and other countries, were considered as armies of aggression against the Arabs in general and the Palestinian people in particular.

The paper added that the new immigration from the Soviet Union poses serious perils to the Arabs and their entire security.

The paper dealt with the American stance towards the Jews exodus to the occupied land, referring that all peace-loving nations should disclose the American attitude at the international level and the extortion exercised by the U.S administration versus the Soviet Union.

The paper concluded its commentary by saying that gravity of the Jewish immigration to occupied Palestine should instigate the Arabs to perceive their historical responsibility with the aim of adopting a decisive and obligatory stand, without delay, for possible confrontation with this impending Zionist danger.

Degel Hatora Offers Solution to Coalition Crisis

TA1403171990 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1700 GMT 14 Mar 90

[Report by political correspondent Natan Gutman from the finance minister's office in Jerusalem]

[Text] Degel Hatora members left the finance minister's office a few minutes ago, and this is the trend that can be discerned at this moment: Degel Hatora has offered a solution whereby the prime minister will reinstate the dismissed Alignment ministers and send a positive response to Baker, along with an appendix clarifying the differences of opinion in the Israeli Government over the issues of East Jerusalem and the PLO's status in the process.

If the prime minister adopts this formula, Degel Hatora will vote confidence in the government; in other words, it will support the Likud. If not, Degel Hatora will not support the government and furthermore will submit its own no-confidence motion.

The Degel Hatora team spent approximately 90 minutes in session with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir, presenting their plan to him and Ministers Nisim and Arens. The Prime Minister's Office's reaction to it is unclear.

Degel Hatora Knesset members spent about 10 minutes with Peres and presented the plan to him as well. Alignment sources have already told us that the plan, which involves an affirmative response to Baker, certainly can be acceptable; the appended letter should make no difference.

This is Degel Hatora's position as worked out by Rabbi Schach today. As far as we know, it can constitute some solution to the crisis, although it now is necessary to wait and see what the prime minister's position toward Degel Hatora's compromise suggestion is.

Arab MK's Pose Conditions for Alignment Support

TA1403195090 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1930 GMT 14 Mar 90

[Text] Here is a last-minute political development: Our party affairs correspondent Hanan 'Azran reports Knesset Members [MK's] 'Abd-al-Wahab Darawshah and Muhammad Mi'ari say they will support the Alignment in tomorrow's no-confidence vote only on the condition the Alignment undertake, prior to the no-confidence vote, to support the abrogation of the law banning meetings with PLO members and the by-law banning contributions [to West Bank Arabs] by the Arab sector. If they do not receive such a pledge, the two will not support the Alignment and will abstain in the vote. As of this announcement, the Alignment has the assured support of only 57 MK's.

60 for No-Confidence; No Degel Hatora Decision

TA1503054990 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0500 GMT 15 Mar 90

[Text] On the eve of the no-confidence vote, the Israeli political arena is shrouded in smoke. The Knesset debate will begin at 1000 [0800 GMT], and the odds of the government's survival still are unclear.

Last night the Alignment had the support of 60 Knesset members [MK's] for its no-confidence vote. MK's Mi'ari, Darawshah, and Biton, among others, will support the motion.

It's expected 58 MK's, including the two Moledet members, will oppose the no-confidence vote. Moledet MK Rehav'am Ze'evi told our correspondent Ze'ev Kohen that his party decided to vote confidence in the government because of its grave apprehension an Alignment-led narrow government may be worse.

Thus the faction now capable of tipping the scales is Degel Hatora. Our correspondent Yo'el Nir reports this party's Council of Torah Sages, presided over by Rabbi Schach, will convene at 1000 this morning to make a final decision on the party's vote. Rabbi Schach last night conducted separate meetings with Ministers Yitzhaq Rabin, Moshe Nisim, and Yitzhaq Peretz. MK Rabbi Avraham Ravitz told our correspondent the ministers presented their stands and, according to him, Rabbi Schach spoke warmly about Minister Rabin, saying he impressed him as a sincere and decent man. Rabbi Schach told the ministers he is in favor of the unity government and of peace, and that all the parties must take action to maintain unity.

Compromise Proposal Raised; Alignment Considers

TA1503072990 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0700 GMT 15 Mar 90

[Text] The parties are making hectic last-minute efforts to prevent the dissolution of the unity government. Our party affairs correspondent Shlomo Raz reports that since 0700 [0500 GMT] this morning, Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin has conducted several meetings at the Prime Minister's Office. He met with Minister David Magen, after which talks also were conducted with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir.

At one of the talks, a compromise proposal was raised according to which the Alignment will not support the no-confidence motions, the dismissals will be annulled, and the Inner Cabinet will continue the debate on replying to Baker's questions. [Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew, in a special broadcast at 0705 GMT on 15 March, carries a report by political correspondent Natan Gutman, who adds that according to the compromise proposal, "the prime minister will promise to conduct an immediate Inner Cabinet debate and to achieve results in the same meeting. The results will be an affirmative answer to Baker, to be accompanied by an explanatory letter."]

The Alignment ministers meanwhile have convened for a meeting at which Minister Rabin is expected to present the compromise proposals.

While the conciliatory efforts continue, our correspondent Yo'el Nir reports Minister Peres' bureau is packed.

Compromises Fall Through

TA1503081590 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0800 GMT 15 Mar 90

[Excerpt] The dismissal of Minister Shim'on Peres and the resignation of the rest of the Alignment ministers are slated for in about 30 minutes, and about 30 minutes ago, the Alignment faction and bureau decided to vote no confidence in the government.

Hectic contacts were conducted this morning in a last minute attempt to prevent the dissolution of the national unity government, but all compromise proposals have fallen through for the time being. [passage omitted]

Shamir Informs Knesset of Dismissal, Resignations

TA1503095490 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 0910 GMT 15 Mar 90

[Announcement by Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir to the Knesset plenum during the special debate on no-confidence motions—live]

[Text] Mr. Speaker, Knesset members: According to Article 21A of the Basic Law: The government, I hereby notify the Knesset that on the 16th day of the month of Adar in the year 5750, 13 March 1990, I relieved Shim'on Peres, the vice prime minister and finance minister, from duty, after I notified the government of this, according to the law. The reason for this act is Mr. Peres acted to disband the national unity government and undermined its existence, while unjustly accusing the government of not acting for the advancement of peace. Knesset Member Peres' removal from duty takes effect this morning.

I also hereby notify the Knesset, according to Article 40A, Clause 4 of The Basic Law: The government, that the following ministers resigned on the 16th day of the month of Adar in the year 5750, 13 March 1990, after they notified the government of their intention to so, in accordance with Article 21A of The Basic Law: The government: Refa'el Edri, Hayim Bar-Lev, Mordekhay Gur, 'Ezer Weizman, Gad Ya'aqobi, Avraham Katz-'Oz, Yitzhaq Navon, Ya'aqov Tzur, Yitzhaq Rabin, and Moshe Shahal. Their resignation became effective this morning. Thank you.

Peres Proposed No-Confidence Motion to Knesset

TA1503093990 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 0842 GMT 15 Mar 90

[Alignment no-confidence motion delivered by Knesset Member Shim'on Peres at the Knesset—live]

[Text] Mr. Speaker, Honorable Knesset Members. I am not here to mourn or lament either national unity or the national unity government, or the chances for peace. I have come to point out that the prime minister, Mr. Yitzhaq Shamir, has failed in these two tasks. The tasks did not fail, the man did. There is no presidential regime in the State of Israel, nor is there a premiership regime. The State of Israel operates based on a coalition system, which means elections. A genuine, respectable, and sincere effort was made to preserve the utmost unity, despite the divergence of opinion and the substance of the controversies.

For instance, we are divided on religious issues. There are religious and ultraorthodox parties, as there are secular, even atheist, parties. I do not consider myself member of an ultraorthodox or a religious party, but I am concerned about the relations between the religious and secular populations. In my opinion—speaking as a representative of the secular sector—there are steps that have to be taken with respect to our relationship with the religious public: The slander must be stopped, and their real needs must be addressed. I see no reason in the world why a religious child should be discriminated against in matters of education only because he is religious. It should not happen. I believe we should strive for equality in the sphere of education. By the way, this is true regarding relations among Jews as it is regarding the Arab public. No kind of discrimination! And respect! I favored additional funds for the religious parties because they deserve it, not because I wanted to bribe them. I hold this view even now, as a member of the opposition. I am seeking no reward or payment for this. David Ben-Gurion established a status quo on matters of religion, and we will continue to respect it.

As for other issues and for peace, I will address them later. We have had arguments with Likud Knesset members. I would like to note that when Mr. Begin was prime minister, and when I was the opposition leader, I suggested to my Labor Party colleagues to vote for Mr. Begin's proposals. I did not request a seat in the Cabinet, although in my opinion, Mr. Begin went too far. Mr. Begin encountered opposition in his own party, and he found support in our opposition party. We did not underestimate things. Thus, unity under certain conditions, is acceptable to us. If unity can be maintained on issues of peace and for the sake of peace, or on issues of war in order to win one, it is to be preferred.

But then a man—Yitzhaq Shamir—rose who, contrary to Menahem Begin, broke all the rules in the world. First of all, he believed this is a Shamir government, rather than a coalition government; that all voices will speak in Shamir's voice; that we are all objects to be trampled on by him; and that he will grade our performance, dismiss us, promote us, and demote us. Nothing like this has ever happened with any of the former prime ministers, neither regarding other parties or us. Regarding the other parties, he mindlessly broke every promise he made, whether written or oral, including promises made to the

sages in the ultraorthodox courts, whom he told: You can keep these promises in museums.

Yesterday, he voiced an antidemocratic and illegal pretext, an unbelievable one, saying: If I have broken promises, it was because I thought I was acting for the good of the country. Is Yitzhaq Shamir the good of the country? Is there such a phrase—the good of the country—which is above the law? Which is above and beyond promises? Beyond keeping promises? Is every minister permitted to do whatever Yitzhaq Shamir is permitted? Is every youth? Every child? Every judge? Is this a country where promises are not kept because the man who broke them says it was for the good of the country? A country where the end justifies the means is a communist regime, Mr. Yitzhaq Shamir, not a democratic one. You are not above the law; you are part of it. You are not above promises; you are obligated to keep them.

But he did not merely break promises; he trampled crassly on the coalition agreement. We have belonged to this government for five years, but Mr. Yitzhaq Shamir has not held even one single conversation with me in which he complained of my desire to topple the government. Not one word! Then I come to the Cabinet meeting and he fires a dismissal notice at me! Based on what? Are you some supreme president? Am I your clerk? There is an agreement between the two parties, and I am a party chairman; if you have complaints, they can be discussed. What are you doing throwing dismissal letters around? Who appointed you?

But whatever he did to me, he also did to Likud members. I heard what the Likud people said—for instance, what Eliyahu Ben-Elisar said about him. I also heard what Ari'el Sharon said about him; what David Levi said about him.

Now, I would like to ask—why? Why had Mr. Begin kept his word, and why has Mr. Shamir not kept his? Mr. Begin launched a peace process despite the argument within the Likud. He did not fear the argument. He did not join the constraints camp at one time and turn against it the next. He did not say one thing on a trip to the United States and the opposite thing upon his return.

Mr. Shamir was against elections in the territories. In April, when he was about to depart for the United States, he had nothing to offer. He therefore proposed elections in the territories—a product of Alignment doctrine. He returned, the Likud Central Committee was convened, and he gave in to the constraints in contravention to what he had promised. We then asked him: Why did you give in to the constraints? It is against the Inner Cabinet resolutions! Mr. Shamir said: Whatever the Inner Cabinet decides is binding. Then, in November, when he had to go to the United States again, he decided to accept Baker's five points plus amendments. When he returned, a new constraint man was revealed, the man whom Mr. Yitzhaq Rabin termed the national undertaker [allusion to Minister Moshe Nisim], and he again gave in to the constraints. This is not how Mr. Begin acted, and this is not how a democratic party acts. Nor is this the way to act toward democratic partners. National unity can be maintained, but not in this way and not in a way in which a word is not a word, a promise is not a promise, a commitment is not a commitment. It is impossible! It is Yitzhaq Shamir's failure, not the failure of the national unity.

The same is true regarding the peace process. Gentlemen, Knesset Members! National unity is not designed to attain paralysis; national unity is not designed to glorify any one man; national unity is not designed to obtain general surrender to a man's title. National unity is possible for a mission. I believe it is possible to round up a vast majority in this Knesset for the sake of the peace process—unity for the sake of a mission, not for satisfaction, evasion, or the murder of the peace process.

I would like to tell Mr. Shamir his record [last word in English] arouses some genuine problems; I felt this from the first minute. I believe had Yitzhaq Shamir and Moshe Arens headed the Likud in the Camp David era, there would have been no accord with Egypt. Arens voted against and Shamir abstained. Shamir described Al-Sadat as a Nazi. He kept frightening us.

Mr. Shamir was the prime minister and Arens was the defense minister when the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] was deployed in Lebanon. Why did they not pull the Army out of Lebanon? Why? Shamir said: If we pull the IDF from Lebanon, it will be a disaster. Then, later... [Peres is interrupted by Knesset speaker, who reminds him his time is up. Peres says he will end his address in a few minutes.]

The same is true regarding the Jordanian option, which he cut short.

I now would like to say a few words about peace. What is this peace founded upon? It is not founded on negotiations with the PLO. It is based on negotiations with a Palestinian delegation from the territories that is not made up of PLO members, although when we signed the Camp David accords, we recognized the existence of a Palestinian people [last three words in English]. What we are talking about are negotiations with a delegation from the territories that does not dabble in terror and does not belong to the PLO.

The second point we are discussing is autonomy as the first stage after the elections, which is acceptable to almost the entire Knesset.

The third point: We are speaking about a united and sovereign Jerusalem, on which autonomy will not be imposed and which will not be questioned.

The fourth point: We are speaking about the first stage of democratic elections, which are to replace the violence.

On behalf of the Alignment, I would like to add: We never suggested that existing settlements in the territories be evacuated. We were against the establishment of new settlements and in favor of developing the Negev. We tried to create genuine common grounds. But then

came Mr. Shamir, who knew precisely with whom Egypt had consulted on its stands, with whom the United States holds talks, but who wanted us to say neither yes nor no to the two Baker questions.

I heard him say yesterday and the day before yesterday: We will discuss, we will discuss, we will discuss. What is there to discuss? Already while in the United States, you were asked by the president and by Baker whether you are ready to include a deportee or two, whether the delegation can include Palestinians from the territories who have a residence or a job in Jerusalem.

Knesset Members! On behalf of the Alignment, I am saying... [Peres is advised by the Knesset speaker that Alignment faction chairman Ramon has given Peres all the time allotted to the Labor Party's address, and therefore has 26 more minutes] Well, I am saying to the Knesset members it is possible to maintain national unity if there is mutual respect. It is inconceivable the prime minister would not summon me even once, and then, when I arrive at a Cabinet meeting, he would shell me with his dismissal letter! Who appointed you to do this in violation of the law, of the agreement! Who in this country will ever believe you again? Who? Is there a religious party that will believe you? A secular party that will believe you?

I always have strived for peace, and will continue to do so. Anyone who works against peace works against existence of the government. [interruptions from the plenum; a Knesset member is removed from the hall] Mr. Shamir has made a joke of two things held sacred by most Knesset members: national unity and the peace process. Unity will be maintained in the future, too; peace is needed by the entire nation. Mr. Shamir now is saying something new: If I now launch the peace process, I have four conditions. The first is elections; second, the solution of the refugee problem; third, the improvement of our ties with Egypt; and fourth—I do not know to whom he presented it—the improvement of relations with all the Arab countries.

I now would like to tell the Knesset members that this morning, information was received from an authorized source saying the Syrians are offering to conduct peace negotiations. The demilitarization of the Golan Heights—is that what you now want? To enter negotiations with the Syrians before you achieve an agreement with the Palestinians? Is that your condition? In general, the idea you have that everyone is certain to adopt the Likud viewpoint... [changes thought after hearing a catcall] It is an excellent idea, and I am glad to hear it. I am hereby advising the Knesset members that we can launch peace negotiations with the Syrians if you are ready to discuss the Golan Heights. I suggest not to be so hasty. On the issue of refugees, they are saying: Okay, when Israel withdraws from Gaza, we will solve the refugee problem. So, whom is he presenting with these conditions?

Shamir has one problem: He represents an anachronism, an anachronistic fear: fear to move forward to peace, fear to make peace with Egypt, fear to make peace with Jordan, and fear to attain a dialogue with the Palestinians. Besides, he suspects everyone; everyone is suspect: his party colleagues, the constraints, the counter-constraints, his Cabinet partners, and the religious parties.

I would like to say to the religious comrades—not to all of them, only to those who vote confidence in the government today: Will you, who favor a broad-based government, a unity government, vote for a narrow government? Will you, who are for the peace process, vote for aborting the process? Will you, who favor an honorable relationship, vote for such a dismissal? One made without a discussion and in violation of agreements? What guarantee do you have that when Shamir signs any agreement whatsoever with you, he will keep it? Do you not know the truth? I know Shamir always has been spreading rumors about me, such as that I would not stick to the rotation agreement—which I did.

Today, I am telling the Knesset members: It is possible to maintain a peace process. The Arabs are doing us no favor, nor are we doing them one. The Palestinians need peace, just as we do. Peace with Egypt has saved us a lot. I would like to add that I do not regret the past year, nor do I regret the efforts made by the defense minister, because a chance for the emergence of a Palestinian party acceptable to them and to us has emerged—without constraints impeding both us and them. I am glad some Likud members agreed to things they earlier had rejected: to elections, autonomy, a tripartite gathering, and Cairo talks. All these are no negligible achievements. We could sit down to talks even now—had someone had the courage to give Baker a reply without evasion. Baker's question was whether the Palestinian delegation can include a deportee or two, and one or two people with a dual address: one in the territories and one in East Jerusalem.

The Likud said it does not object to allowing East Jerusalem Arabs to vote in Jordanian Parliament elections. By the way, the validity of East Jerusalem Arabs' passports is limited. What will happen if they expire? Will it be suggested they vote in Knesset elections? Or would it be preferable to allow them to vote for autonomy? I also would like to point out the Alignment does not propose to impose autonomy on Jerusalem; it does not propose the Palestinians vote in Jerusalem—only outside it. I am telling Knesset members from all parties, including the Likud: We have attained so much accord, despite the coalition which has been so demanding and occasionally complex. We could have acted together—only one should not trample everything with such disregard.

We therefore are here to vote no confidence in the man who has stopped two processes: the peace process and the process of national unity. It was a national unity

empowered with a mission, not one of silence or paralysis; national unity aimed at promoting the peace process, not national unity of intimidation; national unity with a character, not one that changes its mien when it moves from Washington to a Tel Aviv congress hall; unity that is determined democratically, rather than like a pendulum moving to and fro. Knesset Members: Peace does stand a chance, and every Jew, wherever he may be, needs that chance! Every Jew, wherever he may be, because peace will allow the absorption of mass immigration. Even now, we could have had direct flights from Moscow to Ben-Gurion Airport, had it not been for certain unnecessary prattle. [interjections]

Now they are trying to make Jerusalem a piece in a chess game. There are no differences of opinion on the issue of Jerusalem. I am telling the comrades from the religious parties: Jerusalem, Israel's capital, within borders decided by the Government of Israel, will remain a united city where Israeli law will prevail, where autonomy will not be imposed—an eternal capital of Israel. Jerusalem will be built by deed, not rhetoric. I am warning the Knesset members not to turn Jerusalem into an artificial stumbling block for the purpose of elections! There is nothing that unites this house more than Jerusalem. The attempt to divide us on this issue is artificial.

I will repeat my point about the delegation: I know some colleagues are saying: Let us recognize the PLO. I told those colleagues: There is no need; the Palestinian party and the Egyptian party are not insisting on it. They accept an agreed delegation from the territories with whom it will be possible to launch a dialogue. To me, to us, negotiations with an elected delegation are preferable to negotiations with one that will be burned. Because in the present situation, who are the people who will be included in the delegation? All those who survive. Today the delegation is elected by gunfire, violence, and murder, with radicals shooting moderates most of the time. We want a delegation elected through free political elections, conducted with the democratic dignity they deserve.

The moment democracy penetrates the Middle East, peace will follow suit. It is a fact there almost is no war among democratic countries. What happened in East Europe will happen in the Middle East: Dictators will fall, antiquated methods of ends justifying means will disappear, economic and social aspects will replace the strategic one, and everything will be determined through elections.

Our nation has gone through a glorious time with the help of democratic elections. There is a second, less glorious chapter, and I am calling on all to unite for the sake of a mission; I am calling on all to create a relationship in which no one will simply disregard the other.

Mr. Speaker, we do not have confidence in this government headed by Mr. Shamir, and we are urging all Knesset members to vote as they really feel. Ge'ula [Kohen from Tehiya] knows precisely how she feels, as does Raful [Tzomet's Refa'el Eytan]: Vote for a government that will work to unite the nation and, while safeguarding the country's security, to bring to a new, additional horizon of peace between us and our neighbors.

Reportage on Reaction to Libyan Plant Fire

Rabin Denies Israeli Role

TA1503081390 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0800 GMT 15 Mar 90

[Excerpt] Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin denies Israel was involved in the destruction of the Libyan chemical weapons manufacturing plant. In reply to our correspondent Jack Katzenell's question as to whether Israel had a part in the plant's destruction, the defense minister said: Nonsense. [passage omitted]

'No Information' on Fire

TA1503051790 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 15 Mar 90

[Excerpts] Reports from the United States and international news agencies say that the Libyan chemical weapons plant at al-Rabitah has burnt to the ground. [passage omitted]

Here in Israel, a spokesman at the military command said he had no information on the fire, beyond news reports.

Trial Launch of Arrow Missile Set for August

TA1303122090 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 13 Mar 90 p A2

[By Re'uven Pedatzur]

[Excerpts] A first attempt to launch the Arrow antimissile missile, developed by Israel Aircraft Industries, is scheduled for August. It is as yet unclear whether, in its first trial launch, the Arrow will be tested against another missile, or whether the test will be just the launch itself and the missile's behavior in the air. If the decision is made to try it against another missile, a surface-to-surface Lance missile will be launched and the Arrow will be guided to hit it.

The planned launch will be carried out in the midst of the heated arguments in the U.S. Administration concerning the future of the Arrow project. This project is part of the U.S. Strategic Defense Initiative (Star Wars), and attempts recently were made by U.S. officials and Congressmen to narrow its extent, or even cancel it. [passage omitted]

If the trial launch proves successful, this will constitute a technological breakthrough. The Arrow is being developed with new operational concepts, and the missile has qualities attained by Israel Aircraft Industries experts using modern and advanced technologies. According to

the plans, the Arrow will have extraordinary maneuverability, far better than all missiles existing today. [passage omitted]

Levi Lays Cornerstone for Jerusalem Neighborhood

TA1303152190 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1500 GMT 13 Mar 90

[Text] At noon today Construction Minister David Levi laid the cornerstone for the neighborhood of Pisgat Ze'ev East, which will be built in north Jerusalem. According to plans, 3,500 housing units will be built in the area.

Israeli Arabs To Stage 'Land Day' Strike 30 Mar

TA1303133290 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 13 Mar 90 p 10

[By David Rudge]

[Text] Shefar'am—Israeli Arab leaders last night decided to call a general strike on Land Day, March 30.

The decision was taken at a meeting here of the monitoring committee composed of Arab MKs, [Knesset members] local council heads and leading public figures.

Three rallies are slated for that day; one in the Galilee village of 'Arraba, the other two at sites yet to be decided in the Triangle and the Negev.

Participants said the strikes were a protest against the ongoing oppression of residents of the territories and the lack of progress towards finding a peaceful solution. They were also to be interpreted as a demand to grant equality to Israeli Arabs.

The first Land Day demonstrations in 1976, which were held in protest against the alleged expropriation of Arab Land, erupted in violence and rioting and the death of six Israeli Arabs.

Continued Reportage on Sit-In, Police Violence

Masa'idah on Reinstatements

JN1403134890 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 14 Mar 90

[Text] Amman—Salim Masa'idah, deputy prime minister and interior minister, today, in the presence of House of Representatives Member Bassam Haddadin, met with a delegation representing those who had been dismissed from their jobs for political and security reasons, as well as those who had been convicted for political reasons.

Addressing the crowd following the meeting, the deputy prime minister and interior minister said the government will not hesitate to reinstate people who had been dismissed for political reasons, and it has granted permission for them to be reinstated to the positions from which they had been dismissed. He added the government is giving priority to reinstating those citizens.

The deputy prime minister and interior minister stressed any citizen's political opinion never will affect his appointment or reinstatement. He said it is impossible to accurately abide by a timetable to implement this, especially since it depends on the government's financial capabilities according to the general state budget law, the organization and manning table, and vacant jobs. He said the government is committed to giving priority to those people.

Masa'idah pointed out the government believes it is dutybound to consult the opinion of security circles regarding any new appointment or reinstatement of anyone in certain departments that require knowing the background of the person to be appointed, especially departments connected with the national security, such as the Prime Ministry, the Foreign Ministry, and information departments.

The minister pointed out that regarding the cases of people who had carried out illegal acts, such as possessing explosives or participating in or causing citizens' deaths, although the reasons behind carrying out such action might be political, he was briefed by their relatives on their feelings and said he would convey these feelings to the prime minister, who earlier had promised to study separately each of the 31 cases.

More than 150 male and female citizens staged a sit-in outside the Prime Ministry today. They called for quick action to meet their demands. Following their meeting with Masa'idah, the participants called off their sit-in.

Minister Apologizes for Beatings

JN1503073390 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 15 Mar 90 Second Edition p 1

[By Fayruz Mubayyidin]

[Excerpt] Interior Minister Salim Masa'idah has expressed his sorrow and apologies for the fact some policemen yesterday beat up a number of relatives of political prisoners and those dismissed and barred from appointments for political reasons during their sit-in outside the Prime Ministry yesterday. [passage omitted]

Columnist Defends Iraqi 'Justice' in Spy Case

JN1403121690 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 14 Mar 90 p 26

["I Say a Word" column by 'Abd-al-Rahim 'Umar: "East Is East and West Is West"]

[Text] Finally, I have become convinced of what the imperialist poet Rudyard Kipling said: "East is East and West is West; they will never meet." For this imperialist West—whose direct colonialism, occupation of our lands, and pillaging of our people's good fortunes from which we are suffering and, if God wills, will continue to suffer—still thinks we are inhabitants of its colonies, despite the change in circumstances and state of affairs.

When we learned a few months ago about the terrible explosion in one of the arms factories in fraternal Iraq, western media—the British in particular, and specifically THE INDEPENDENT newspaper—was the side which published the story in an exaggerated, amazing way. The BBC aired the news to the Arabs citing THE INDEPENDENT and saying that 32 large buildings of the Iraqi military industries had been destroyed. Since everybody knows, especially observers, that Iraq, its military power, and military industries are a main target—and bearing in mind the Israeli planes' raid on the Tammuz nuclear reactor—the report stunned every Arab who heard it.

Subsequently, rumors began to circulate about thousands of experts being killed, and about the miraculous way Israel had managed to find a flaw in the Iraqi precautions, and a lot of nonsensical talk ensued. It turned out the accident merely was an explosion in an ammunition warehouse, and that the Iraqi authorities arrested two British spies who were working for Israeli intelligence while they were taking photographs of military areas in Baghdad. One of the two spies is of Iranian extraction and works as a journalist with THE OBSERVER; the other is an Irish nurse who works in Iraq.

Although the whole world heard the news of the British reaction when Israeli intelligence kidnapped an Israeli in London who had taken refuge in the British capital and had disclosed Israel's nuclear projects and their danger, we do not want to accuse Britain of negligence or connivance in that operation. We demand, however, that Britain and its partners in the EEC view the justice and equality concerning what happened in Iraq.

Two spies were arrested; a representative of the British Embassy attended their trial and listened to their confessions. When the sentence was passed, Great Britain and its EEC partners rose as one man, as if Iraq is in a state of war with Britain, not Israel, and as if all Iraq's

material and moral losses are worthless compared with the stature of the British nationality which the two Israeli spies enjoy.

We are not entitled to ask the Iraqi authorities anything regarding this, because the Iraqi justice knows better what it should do. We notice a clamor in the West whenever the whirlpool in Lebanon claims a Western hostage for a certain period of time. We understand this clamor, which is based on a purely humanitarian stance. We wonder, however, does the western view of man consist of two contradictory parts, which make this West raise the number of those killed to thousands when the case deals with Iraq, and disregards the daily killing of our Palestinian Arab people—on whose land the West has made it its duty to raise Zionism and establish a state for the Zionists. The western view also is silent and unmoved over the daily killing. It is enraged and infuriated, however, when Iraq arrests an Israeli spy who carries British nationality.

We feel Iraq is targeted, and that our Arab nation should side with it.

U.S. Intentions on Palestinian Issue 'Suspect'

JN1503080290 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 15-16 Mar 90 p 4

[Editorial: "Sweet Talk or Double Standards?"]

[Text] The Arab side has lately been hearing lots of sweet talk from Washington, notably on Arab Jerusalem and the elusive Palestinian-Israeli dialogue. To be sure, the Arab World has received such positive news with a great deal of appreciation and gratitude. Above all, the Arabs saw in these reassuring statements from the U.S. Administration prima facie evidence that Washington was indeed taking bold steps and decisions on the stalemated peace process. Yet, all these comforting developments come against the backdrop of hard and disturbing news: First came the information that Washington had decided in principle to provide Israel with an additional $400 million to settle Jewish immigrants ostensibly in Israel proper. As if that was not bad and ominous enough, an even more alarming news from Washington followed, confirming the long-held Arab suspicion that the U.S. has decided to provide Israel with its latest anti-missile and state-of-the-art early-warning system to offset any pssible danger from Arab rockets. No wonder then Tel Aviv faltered once again on the peace process.

What possible incentive can Israel have to negotiate peace with the Arab side as long as its arsenal is regularly refurbished with the latest U.S. arms and technology and its coffers replenished with extra funds to populate its lands and the occupied territories with new waves of immigrants. Against these conflicting signals from the U.S., the Arab World is left perplexed as to which side of the American story to believe and place its trust and confidence in: The side that makes Israel all the more stronger and confident or the side that intoxicates the Arab with sweet talk? What is even worse is that all these conflicting signals from Washington are coming at a time when the division between the Likud and Labour parties in Israel on the American formula for Palestinan-Israeli talks has reached a climax and culminated in Shamir simply firing his deputy Shim'on Peres from the cabinet. This was clearly a bid by Shamir to preempt any attempt to exert last-minute pressure on him to yield to reason and common sense and accept the American terms for Israeli- Palestinian talks.

With this in mind, the Arab side has no valid reason to put its trust in the newly articulated U.S. policy on the Middle East except when it is backed by deeds and actions that lend it coherence and credibility. And as long as Washington pretends that it is twisting the arms of Tel Aviv to start talks with the Palestinians while at the same time it is filling up Israel's coffers with extra funding and its arsenals with latest U.S. weapons, U.S. intentions will always be suspect.

Mudar Badran Receives PLO Envoy, General

JN1303092590 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 13 Mar 90 pp 1, 18

[Text] Amman—Prime Minister Mudar Badran yesterday received Palestinian ambassador to Jordan al-Tayyib 'Abd-al-Rahim and PLO Executive Committee Member Brigadier General 'Abd-al-Razzaq al-Yahya. They exchanged views on all issues, including the threats to pan-Arab security. The two sides' viewpoints were identical.

'Abd-al-Rahim and Al-Yahya conveyed President Yasir 'Arafat's greetings and wishes of success to Badran during the current democratic stage in Jordan.

Foreign Minister, Waldegrave Discuss Mideast

JN1403152890 Amman PETRA-JNA in Arabic 1410 GMT 14 Mar 90

[Text] London, 14 Mar (PETRA)—Marwan al-Qasim, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, has discussed with Mr. Waldegrave, British minister of state at the Foreign Office, bilateral relations and the current situation in the Middle East.

During a meeting between the two ministers last night, they expressed their satisfaction with the Palestinian response to peace efforts and discussed the danger threatening these efforts and the future of the question of peace in the Middle East and the whole region as a result of Soviet Jewish influx, the intention being to settle them in the occupied Arab territories.

They reaffirmed the necessity of adhering to the binding resolutions issued by the Security Council, particularly Resolutions Nos. 242, 338, and 465, which deal with Israel's withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories and the illegitimacy of setting up Jewish settlements and making demographic changes in the occupied Arab territories.

Libyan Islamists, Awqaf Ministry Sign Agreement

JN1403163090 Amman PETRA-JNA in Arabic 1420 GMT 14 Mar 90

[Excerpts] Amman, 14 Mar (PETRA)—The Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs signed a cooperation agreement with the International Islamic al-Da'wah Society in Tripoli, Libya, to consolidate bonds, cooperation, and relations between the ministry and the society in the field of the Islamic call.

Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Minister Dr. 'Ali al-Faqir told PETRA-JORDANIAN NEWS AGENCY upon arrival from his visit to the Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah that during the visit, he met with Libyan leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi and conveyed the greetings of His Majesty King Husayn and the Jordanian Government and people, while recalling Jordan's pan-Arab support for Libya during the period when it was the subject of a complete boycott by a number of countries. [passage omitted]

He said the society's officials showed readiness to provide support for all activities in the Islamic field in Jordan and abroad. He added the agreement centered on exchanging information, research, and publications dealing with the Islamic call; exchanging delegations, 'ulema, guides, and preachers to inform them of the activities and fields of the Islamic call; and preaching, guidance, and teaching of the Islamic shari'a at colleges and universities. This is in addition to supporting the ministry in constructing four shari'a schools and a da'wah college in Jordan with a sum of $400,000 and granting an annual $100,000 to aid West Bank students studying at Jordanian colleges, schools, and universities.

He said the agreement stipulated that the ministry will help the society by opening an office in Jordan to conduct its activities in the service of the Islamic call in addition to forming a joint committee between the ministry and the society, which meets once a year in Tripoli and Amman alternately, to follow up implementation of the agreement, its program, and the projects arising from it.

The agreement stipulates it will take effect after being certified according to the rules, laws, and regulations applicable to both sides. It is valid for 25 years and automatically renewable for another 25 years.

'Awn Reportedly Seeks 'Political Asylum' in France

NC1503080890 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0415 GMT 15 Mar 90

[Excerpt] The French magazine LE FIGARO reports that General Michel 'Awn has asked the French ambassador to Lebanon to help him, his family, and senior officers to obtain political asylum in France. In this case, the magazine said, 'Awn would be willing to hand over the Army to General Emile Lahhud.

LE FIGARO notes that three major narcotics dealers are among Gen. 'Awn's command. [passage omitted]

'Awn Denies Vulnerability to Assassination

NC1403173990 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1645 GMT 14 Mar 90

[Text] Today General Michel 'Awn attacked what he termed the agents inside the country and said that Lebanon is now facing the severest part of the plot to destroy legitimacy. He also said that the aim of 14 March [1989, which marked the start of his war of liberation against the Syrians] was to get rid of internal hegemony, the illegal rifle, and the behavior of those who carried it which has become illegal. He added that 14 March also meant the liberation of the land and giving the citizen the immunity of justice and of legitimate security.

Addressing the people, 'Awn described his stand as the dream that ends in one of two things: Either it becomes reality or the dreamer is assassinated. But, he added, no one can assassinate him.

Gen. 'Awn did not mention Syria or Syrian occupation in his speech.

Another note is that 'Awn was addressing a group of young people who were organized to stage what was said to be a spontaneous demonstration on the anniversary of 14 March. The demonstrators raised the known slogans, some of which were insulting.

Mediation Committee Members on Meeting With 'Awn

NC1303200990 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1915 GMT 13 Mar 90

[Text] The meeting between the mediation committee members and General Michel 'Awn at B'abda Palace has ended. Afterwards, Abbot Bulus Nu'man said that the meeting was useful, and he urged citizens not to heed rumors. He said: We are proceeding steadily. Shakir Abu-Sulayman said that the committee is addressing the six points issue and that this requires some time.

More on Syrian Troops Deployed in Beirut Suburbs

NC1403204890 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 14 Mar 90

[Text] Following intensive contacts and consultations to tackle the situation in some of the areas of Beirut's Southern Suburb, Bi'r Hasan, al-Janah, and al-Awza'i, Arab Syrian troops were deployed in the areas that were the scene of tension in Bi'r Hasan, the vicinity of the Iranian Embassy, al-Janah, and al-Awza'i. Patrols were conducted and roadblocks set up to bring the situation back to normal.

Toward that end, Shaykh Muhammad Mahdi Shams-al-Din, deputy chairman of the Higher Islamic Shiite Council, held extensive contacts with the officials concerned in both the Amal Movement and Hizballah as well as with Brigadier General 'Ali Hammyd, chief of the Syrian observers' team. He also met with Minister Nabih Birri to discuss the clashes of the past two days.

Meanwhile, skirmishes involving the Amal and Hizballah positions in Iqlim al-Tuffah are continuing, but there are no reports of casualties.

New Round of Violence Feared in East Beirut

NC1403162590 Ihdin Radio of Free and Unified Lebanon in Arabic 1530 GMT 14 Mar 90

[Text] Intermittent clashes are taking place along the newly created combat lines in the eastern areas accompanied by sniper fire that reaches the adjacent residential neighborhoods. Sniper fire killed one person in Hayy al-Siryan and wounded five others elsewhere, including two soldiers in Darayya, upper Kasrawan.

AFP has quoted citizens in East Beirut as saying that they are waiting for a new round of violence and that they are preparing to return to shelters. The agency added that military trucks are seen in several sections of the eastern area carrying ammunition to the newly created combat positions. In addition, new artillery emplacements are being installed in several areas, the agency noted.

Officials Urged To Act on Jewish Settlement Plan

NC1103163890 Ihdin Radio of Free and Unified Lebanon in Arabic 1530 GMT 11 Mar 90

[Text] The inhabitants of the vilage of Rashayya al-Fukhkhar have send a letter to President Ilyas al-Hirawi, Chamber of Deputies Speaker Husayn al-Husayni, and Prime Minister Dr. Salim al-Huss, urging them to act swiftly to frustrate a plan to establish the first Israeli settlement in Lebanon. In their letter, the village's inhabitants stated that the occupation authorities are seeking, through a certain person, to establish a settlement in forests near the village with a view to settling the Jews who were brought to the south from Sudan or America last year.

The people of Rashayya al-Fukhkhar called on the three leaders to act to abort this plan, which is hostile to Lebanon's unity and territorial integrity. They also called for the implementation of the UN resolutions.

UN Spokesman Denies Settlers Brought to South

NC1203160090 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 12 Mar 90

[Text] Timor Goksel, official spokesman for the United Nations Interim Forces in Lebanon, has denied media reports that the occupation authorities have brought 100 families to the Rashayya al-Fukhkhar area to settle there.

Goksel also denied reports about a role by the Norwegian contingent. He emphasized that the contingent's officials have had no contacts with any faction in the area.

Authorities Trying To Regain Land From American

NC1303173190 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 13 Mar 90

[Text] William Robinson's seizure of large areas of land in the town of Rashayya al-Fukhkhar to establish an Israeli settlement there and the settling of Soviet Jews in the occupied territories, against which the Soviet agency NOVOSTI has issued a warning to Israel, constitute a new danger to Lebanon's unity and Arab rights in the occupied territories. The competent authorities are acting to regain the land Robinson has seized in Rashayya so that the land will not be turned into a settlement for Jewish immigrants.

Minister Rizq Discusses 10 Mar Cabinet Meeting

NC1003201590 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 10 Mar 90

[Statement by Information Minister Edmond Rizq following a Cabinet meeting in West Beirut on 10 March—recorded]

[Text] A Cabinet meeting chaired by President al-Hirawi and attended by Prime Minister Dr Salim al-Huss and the ministers took place today. His excellency the president briefed the Cabinet on the results of his tour of Arab countries, which included the member states of the Higher Arab Tripartite Committee. He said the discussions during this tour centered on two primary issues. The first was the continuation of support for the legitimate authority and the national accord government in order to consolidate security and peace and impose the state's authority throughout the Lebanese territory. The second was the provision of development, humanitarian, and social aid which Lebanon needs to deal with the general situation.

The president praised their majesties and excellencies the leaders of the tripartite committee for their understanding of the Lebanese issue [words indistinct] necessary for helping Lebanon to end its crises. He also briefed the Cabinet on the recent French moves. He stated that the French ambassador in Lebanon has requested the legitimate Lebanese authority's permission to carry out some contacts in the eastern area and convey a specific message from his government to certain parties, calling on them to end the state of rebellion and submit to the legitimate authority. The quarters concerned have agreed to give the French Government this opportunity in the hope that the cycle of violence may be ended, in the interest of the Lebanese people.

The prime minister reviewed the issue of the Arab aid which Lebanon needs in several areas in order to rebuild the country. He also reviewed the plans which various ministries have submitted. He said: Recent incidents in the eastern area have resulted in terrible destruction, going beyond all estimates and surpassing the combined internal and external potentials. This requires a special plan on an Arab and international level. He outlined what had been discussed in this regard during his Arab tour and referred to the necessity of establishing a specific Arab authority to coordinate the aid.

The Cabinet then discussed the various security, political, and administrative aspects of the general situation, as well as the question of living conditions. The Cabinet concentrated on the matter of ensuring water and electricity supplies. It then turned to the agenda and adopted the appropriate decisions. The Cabinet declares the following:

1. The acts of violence have caused hardships that no conscience can accept, and no excuse or explanation can justify. No official in any post can shirk his responsibility to deal with this hardship. In view of this humanitarian, economic, and social calamity, its victims, and the enormous losses it has caused in the eastern area in particular and in Lebanon in general, the Cabinet considers that the statements on ending the killing and destruction and on becoming convinced of the futility of the methods of sedition and evil constitute the necessary minimum for pointing a return to reason and to a sense of responsibility. The Cabinet hopes this stand is the result of a lesson that has truly been learned from past experiences. It hopes that it is not part of a maneuver being carried out at this stage within the framework of an intransigent suicidal or separatist partitionist plan and a finite liquidationist plot. The Cabinet asserts that the option of returning to the formula of a legitimate, institutionalist, and united state is the only course which can save the homeland and the people.

2. The Cabinet emphasizes the priority it accords to safeguarding the unity and dignity of the military establishment and stopping it from being used for adventurism and being exposed to disintegration. The Cabinet expresses its deep pain over what has befallen this establishment's equipment and personnel in sterile and futile confrontations designed to attain personal objectives. The Cabinet stresses that it is the Lebanese Army, with homogeneous instruction, training, and equipment—that is, the establishment qualified to support the state and defend the homeland.

The Cabinet repeats its call to the Lebanese Army personnel to act in accordance with the traditions of the military establishment, to declare their allegiance to the legitimate command led by General Emile Lahhud, and

to take up their natural positions in the line of unity, discipline, and vigor. The legitimate authority, as represented by the Cabinet, calls upon all officers and soldiers to prove their loyalty to the establishment to which they belong and their allegiance to the homeland which they have sworn to defend and to put a swift end to the partition of the army and the tragedy of the people. The Cabinet stresses to the officers and the soldiers that their command is waiting for them, that it is extending its hand to them, that it cares for all of them, and that it will never abandon anyone who shows discipline and joins the legitimate command.

3. Regarding the proposals and views being circulated through the media, the Cabinet hereby declares that the national accord document endorsed by the Chamber of Deputies and adopted by the government in its policy statement constitutes the sole available practical way to bring Lebanon out of its predicament and put it on the road to development and sound democratic progress—the road of unity, stability, and sovereignty. The Cabinet's position regarding this issue is absolutely unequivocal. The Cabinet calls on all citizens wherever they are to follow the democratic rules in expressing their views, within the legitimate constitutional institutions that have made their choice and decision in a responsible manner. It declares that it has absolutely no intention of permitting any (?questioning), either of the spirit and the articles of the national accord document or of the Cabinet's genuine determination to proceed with its implementation. The Cabinet holds the hesitant, suspicious, reneging, and rebelling parties responsible for engulfing Lebanon in chaos, for conspiring to undermine Lebanon's unity, and for pushing its people to despair and [word indistinct].

Fadlallah Delivers Friday Prayers Sermon 9 Mar

NC0903204890 Tehran International Service in Arabic 1730 GMT 9 Mar 90

[Text] In his Friday prayers sermon at the Imam Reda Mosque in Beirut's Southern Suburb today, 'Allamah Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah congratulated all Muslims on the birthday of the awaited Imam al-Mahdi, may God hasten his honorable reappearance. He stressed the importance of adhering to the policy of the pious imams, may God's peace be upon them, which knows no bargaining.

'Allamah Fadlallah emphasized continued jihad against the Zionist entity. He praised the jihad operation of the strugglers of the Islamic Resistance in southern Lebanon yesterday. He said that negotiating with the Zionist entity leads nowhere and noted that all Muslims and strugglers must follow the example of the strugglers of the Islamic Resistance in confronting the Zionist entity. He pointed out that Zionist rulers, in return for the bargaining Arab regimes' flexibility and concessions and by continuing to settle Jews in occupied Palestine, are attempting to fulfill their old dream. He said that all this is taking place while the Arabs remain silent and look indifferently on bargaining with the Zionist entity.

'Allamah Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah criticized the tendentious U.S. stand which provides facilities for Jewish immigration into occupied Palestine. He added that America's basic goal is to make the Zionist entity the strongest state in the Middle East in order to protect the interests of global arrogance in the region.

He stressed the need to adhere to the cease-fire in Iqlim al-Tuffah, to halt media campaigns between Amal and Hizballah, and to resume dialogue between them.

Economy Minister Emphasizes Arab Cooperation

JN1503114290 Kuwait AL-ANBA' in Arabic
13 Mar 90 p 11

[By Nahid Imam in Cairo]

[Excerpt] Syrian Economy Minister Dr Muhammad al-'Imadi has stressed that Syria is inclined toward increasing its trade with the Arab countries instead of depending on foreign markets. In an interview with AL-ANBA', he said his recent visit to Egypt was a tangible development toward the restoration of relations between Egypt and Syria in all fields. He pointed out that technical committees from both countries were set up to draw the outline of a comprehensive agreement for economic, commercial, technical, and investment cooperation between the two countries.

Al-'Imadi said the Syrian Government's economic plan sought to support the private sector. It increased its contribution to exports by 300 percent between 1988 and 1989 and allowed it to retain 75 percent of its overall revenues from exports in foreign currency to finance its imports.

He said the establishment of an Arab market would not come as something in parallel with the unified European market of 1992, but as an indispensable step to increase cooperation among Arab countries in the fields of trade, investment, and movement of labor. Following is the text of the interview:

Dr. al-'Imadi says the Syrian economy is diversified and rich in all aspects. The economic plan focuses on cooperation with the Arab countries instead of dependence on foreign markets, especially as Syria imports 22 billion Syrian pounds worth of goods, with only 10 percent coming from Arab countries and the rest from non-Arab countries. It exports 23 billion Syrian pounds worth of goods, with most going to non-Arab countries. The Syrian economy wants to use its resources in the service of the Arab region. Syria now produces 5 million tonnes of phosphate annually, and its phosphate reserves amount to 500 million tonnes. Our production of heavy oil reached 9 million tonnes and of light gas 7 million tonnes. The Syrian economy has started to achieve surplus in its trade balance. While there was a deficit of 9.6 billion Syrian pounds in 1988, a surplus of 10.4 billion pounds was achieved in 1989. The gross national product rose from 182 to 200 billion pounds during 1988-89, and Syrian savings rose from 12 billion to 35 billion. The value of exports was 33.7 billion pounds while that of imports was estimated at 23.3 billion pounds. The Syrian Government's economic plan inclined to support the private sector by increasing its contribution to the exports from 5.5 billion pounds in 1988 to 16.4 billion pounds in 1989. To encourage the private sector, the government allowed it to retain 75 percent of the foreign currency coming from exports to finance imports. Moreover, it can retain its full foreign currency revenues if it exports vegetables and fruits. T his is aimed at encouraging the private sector and is an acknowledgement of this sector's role in pushing forward economic development in Syria. [passage omitted]

Jimmy Carter Arrives, Meets With Al-Shar'

JN1403143890 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic
1215 GMT 14 Mar 90

[Text] Former U.S. President Jimmy Carter and Mrs. Carter arrived in Damascus today on a visit to the Syrian Arab Republic. He was received at the Damascus international airport by Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar', Mrs. al-Shar', the chiefs of the American and Protocol Desks at the Foreign Ministry, the U.S. ambassador in Damascus and his wife, and U.S. Embassy staff.

President Jimmy Carter made a statement to journalists at the airport in which he said: I am very pleased to return to Syria. I held a series of constructive meetings with President Hafiz al-Asad—meetings that began in Geneva in 1977. It is very important to visit Syria within the framework of my Middle East tour. President Carter added: We are particularly concerned to achieve peace in Lebanon. And the al-Ta'if agreement should be implemented.

Asked about Soviet Jewish immigration to Palestine, President Carter said: I concur with President Bush that the Jews should not be settled in the occupied territory.

Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' welcomed former U.S. President Jimmy Carter and his wife, wishing them a pleasant stay in Syria. He added he is confident President Carter will hold very fruitful and constructive talks with President Hafiz al-Asad.

Al-Shar' said: With regard to Soviet Jewish immigration to Israel, we, in Syria and in the Arab homeland in general, believe that this immigration violates human rights. The Soviet Jews can go to any place and or any country in the world, but not to Israel. Al-Shar' added that priority must be given to the human rights of the Palestinian Arabs, who are under Israeli occupation. Millions of Palestinians are outside their homeland, thousands of Syrians are outside the occupied Golan, and thousands of Lebanese are outside occupied southern Lebanon. All those are deprived of the right to return to their homeland and property. Al-Shar' said: If the Arabs' human rights are not taken into consideration, there should be no Soviet Jewish immigration to Palestine.

Asked about the future of the hostages in Lebanon, al-Shar' said: We are not pessimistic. As we have made many efforts to release numerous hostages in the past, including a large number of Americans, we continue to make such humanitarian efforts.

Discusses Arab-Israeli Conflict

JN1403191890 Damascus Television Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 14 Mar 90

[Text] Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' received former U.S. President Jimmy Carter this evening. During the meeting, they discussed the Arab-Israeli conflict and developments in Lebanon. Their talks also dealt with the Central America and the Horn of Africa.

Meets With President Al-Asad

JN1503130790 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 15 Mar 90

[Text] President Hafiz al-Asad received at 1330 today former U.S. President Jimmy Carter and his wife. The meeting was attended by Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar'.

Moroccan Minister Discusses Cultural Relations

JN1503114690 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1115 GMT 15 Mar 90

[Text] Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi at 1100 received Mr. Mohamed Benaissa, minister of cultural affairs in the Kingdom of Morocco. Talks centered on the scope of cultural cooperation between Syria and Morocco and the means to set up effective cultural relations to lead to deepening the elements of Arab culture and its donation to the one Arab people in Syria and the Kingdom of Morocco.

Culture Minister Najah al-'Attar and Moroccan Cultural Affairs Minister Mohamed Benaissa also exchanged this morning documents endorsing the clauses of the scientific and cultural agreement between Syria and Morocco.

Today, the first round of discussions started to set the implementation program of this agreement between the two countries with the presence of the Moroccan cultural delegation and representatives from the departments of culture, information, education, higher education, and some popular organizations.

TISHRIN Condemns U.S. Arms Sales to Israel

JN1503103490 Damascus SANA in Arabic 0818 GMT 15 Mar 90

[Text] Damascus, 15 Mar (SANA)—The newspaper TISHRIN warned here today of the dangers of the U.S. decision to provide Israel with a modern radar and early-warning system, which confirms the U.S. position concerning continued Israeli military superiority over the Arabs to impose its conditions on them.

The newspaper said in a commentary today that giving U.S. weapons to the Zionist aggressors so that they can stockpile them to serve their aggressive expansionist objectives cannot serve the peace process or realize any true progress in seeking to find a peaceful settlement in the region.

The newspaper adds: Whoever seeks to establish peace does not place the most modern military weapons in bloodthirsty hands. This does not befit the constructive role which a superpower like the United States should play to establish peace in this part of the world.

TISHRIN affirmed that Israel owns weapons for destruction and killing greater than its actual size, and that stockpiling these weapons imposes impossible conditions on the Arabs.

The newspaper pointed out that the U.S. relationship with world countries is based on a trilateral, rather than bilateral, policy. In other words, when the U.S. Administration thinks of strengthening its policies with this or that side, it inevitably thinks of the extent of the positive or negative effects on the U.S.-Israeli relationship. If they are positive, then it proceeds to set them up; if negative, then it avoids them.

TISHRIN concludes its commentary saying that the announcement on providing Israel with the most modern radar and early-warning systems will not be the last. In fact, it accompanies the U.S. role to step up Jewish emigration from the Soviet Union to Israel.

This dictates that the Arabs should rise to the responsible level of comprehending President Hafiz al-Asad's sounding of the alarm and his call for realizing unity and solidarity, since they are the most important weapons owned by the Arab nation in confronting its enemies.

Afghanistan

Najibullah Urges Refugees To Return Home

LD1303224290 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1630 GMT 13 Mar 90

[Speech by President Najibullah addressed to Afghan refugees; date and place not given—recorded]

[Text] In the name of God, the Compassionate, the Merciful. Refugee sister and brother compatriots, first of all I convey my regards to you refugee brothers and sisters. I pray to God for your good health. In the month of April of the current year [Afghan year beginning 21 March 1989] when you were preparing for 'Id al-Fitr, I addressed you over the radio and expressed my points of view. Then I talked about the increasing problems of you and your families. Now it seems that your problems are increasing every day. Since then, a number of compatriots returned to the homeland where the Republic of Afghanistan has fulfilled all its responsibilities toward them. During this sensitive time in history, I would like to inform you about the development of incidents and the situation, and accomplish my obligations in terms of national responsibility and Islamic brotherhood.

You know that the country is the common home of all Afghans and they have the right to work for the construction of their home. Therefore, we have always strived for your return to the homeland along with your families so that you may restart your dignified life.

You must know that in the afternoon of 6 March and in the morning of 7 March, Shahnawaz [Tanay] and a number of traitors to national interests of the country attempted a bloody coup in the city of Kabul. After an hour or two, Golbuddin [Hekmatyar] announced that Shahnawaz is cooperating with Golbuddin, the enemy of the nation and the refugees, and he also revealed that he has been in contact with him for some time. You notice that those people who oppressed you enormously in the past and have allied themselves with Golbuddin, who has stockpiled in your name and on your behalf a large amount of money and weapons, peep out of the same collar. There are refugees among you who have escaped because of the oppression and persecution committed by Asadullah Sarwari, and who might know that he collaborated with the Pakistani military intelligence and coup plotters and wanted to return to the era of oppression and dictatorship against the freedom loving people of Afghanistan.

Thank you for preventing Shahnawaz, the spy of Pakistani military intelligence, who intended the disintegration of your fatherland, from going to the political office of Golbuddin's so-called Hezb-e Eslami. He now has accomodations in the Balahesar of Peshawar. That some patriotic Afghans, and especially you refugees, have demanded that Shahnawaz be put on trial represents your Afghan patriotism and manliness. Shahnawaz, Asadullah Sarwari, and their coup-plotting clique wanted to introduce dictatorship once again, and prevent your return to Afghanistan and your participation in the future of Afghanistan. Those traitors to the country and the people knew that if national reconciliation policy make progress, and you returned to the country, you would definitely have documents and evidence sufficient to prove their oppressive acts and crimes. They knew that you would ask the Government of Afghanistan to punish the murderers of your children and the plunderers of your properties. In this case they saw no place for themselves in the future of Afghanistan, and were afraid of the judgment of the people of Afghanistan. The coup d'etat of Shahnawaz was in fact against national reconciliation. He and his accomplices dropped 500-kilogram bombs on people, and bathed them in blood, and with their looted public property they joined the historic enemies of the people of Afghanistan. Shahnawaz, traitor to the country and to the people, escaped with a number of his accomplices, who could put up no resistance to the heroic armed forces and valorous sons of the people of Afghanistan. A limited number of others who shamelessly resisted were crushed, and a number of them were arrested. A special attorney and court set up for the trials of unpatriotic and inhuman criminals will mete out punishment to the captured people.

In line with the statement of the supreme command of the Armed Forces of the Republic of Afghanistan, I especially declare that you must arrest Shahnawaz and his traitorous accomplices and punish them for their deeds. Do not allow the traitors to frequent your areas and continue their antinational activities. Not only is this announcement the message of the Republic of Afghanistan, but it is the voice of the families of those of your compatriots whose children were bathed in blood by the Shahnawaz-Golbuddin coup d'etat, causing them many miseries.

I would like to assure my compatriots inside and outside the country that the Government of the Republic of Afghanistan, and the Armed Forces of the country, are in control of the situation.

Dear compatriots and brothers and sisters away from the country, Afghans are famous for their benevolence in the world. Have you thought about the fact that if the coup-plotters had seized power, they would have turned the country you are yearning for into a bloodbath and the fifth province of Pakistan? I had asked you in my previous message to keep away the anti-Islamic and anti-Afghan intentions of the extremists. The passage of time shows that the forecasts of the Republic of Afghanistan were true. They wanted to annex Afghanistan with Pakistan by seizing power.

In order to gain power, they wanted to amalgamate Afghanistan with Pakistan and commit treason against the country's independence, territorial integrity, and Afghan national unity. I know that a number of refugees have not agreed with this sort of plans and have expressed their opposition through demonstrations and marches. Yes, their Afghan honor and conscience allow

no one to agree with these plans. Remember what happened in Naserbagh. Do you think it fair that a number of sell-outs in exchange for dollars and dinars are taking place on your homeland with the Saudi Wahabis? We count on the grace and dignity of our people. If you return to your homeland, the people of Afghanistan will be ready to share their piece of bread with you and to prepare suitable conditions for your life and work. The destiny of Afghanistan will be in the hands of those people who will take part in its future, those who love their country and who have maintained links with its courageous and graceful people and are working and thinking for peace, progress, justice, work, and for the expansion of democracy.

Respected brothers, the leadership of the state of the Republic of Afghanistan has strongly felt the bitter realities of your refuge, which has occurred for a variety of reasons, and wants a rapid end to this intolerable situation. You could with confidence return to the embrace of your homeland and resume your patriotic work and service. If your return is not possible for the moment, you could appoint your representatives and send them to the homeland for talks and understanding with the republican state. The relevant republican Afghan authorities would take your opinion under consideration and would utilize every possibility in facilitating your return home. I am personally ready to talk with your representatives and to take under consideration and assessment the return and resettlement of families and the removal of problems concerning the provision of conditions for work, the education and training of your children, the return of property and goods which are under state control, and a series of other problems. If you want to return home, the obstacles against such a step are (?now removed). UN departments are active in Pakistan and Afghanistan. Diplomatic representations of the Republic of Afghanistan are working in the countries where you live. Whenever you want, establish contacts with them and solve your problems through them.

Brothers and sisters, we are worried about the future of you and, your children. Put an end to being refugees and living in poverty. Don't let the land of your fathers and brothers become [word indistinct]. The extremists call you homeless fugitives and pay no respect to refugee graves. You are not without a home. You, your families and your homeland have 5,000 years of history. Utilizing every possibility, return to your dear ones and compatriots. I ask you all to think about everything I have said and I invite you to return to the homeland, you who believe that the love of the homeland is a part of ones faith. All Afghans are brothers in faith to each other. Afghans and Muslims are brothers among themselves. They are each other's compatriots and, undoubtedly, are a source of strength to each other. Just as a nail cannot be separated from the finger, you are also not separate from us. The best thing would be to put an end to a deed, the future of which has no benefit, but repent and return to your homes. I also ask you brothers to think about the future of your children and of yourselves in a foreign country. What do you expect from living in the camps and under the ceiling of others? Do you want your children to suffer every day from being away from their homeland and do you want to live again under the yoke of the ringleaders and of the aliens, while a proud nation and its graceful people are on your side and are worrying about your separation? Why should we deprive ourselves from seeing our relatives and relations?

Compatriot brothers and sisters, I consider it as my religious, nation, and patriotic duty to let you know about the anti-Afghan, anti-Islamic, and antinational dangerous consequences of plans by the warmongering extremists. I am completely confident that your path is separate from the path of the sell-outs, and, wherever you are, that you have feelings for your homeland and love for the homeland and freedom and will never want to be deceived by war-mongers [words indistinct]. We are waiting for you so that we can work together here in the homeland without worry and prosper and build our country. We are waiting to welcome you brothers and sisters in Afghanistan. The new year is waiting for you. The country's fertile lands, gardens, rivers, and great mountains are waiting for you. I ask Almighty God to give strength to all you refugees away from the homeland to come back to the homeland. God be with you. May God protect you. Help is from God and victory is close.

Najibullah Calls For End to 'Fratricidal War'

LD1403211890 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 14 Mar 90

[Speech by President Najibullah to "internal commanders and group leaders" on 14 March; place not given—recorded]

[Text] In the name of God, the Merciful, the Compassionate. Dear brothers, group leaders and armed commanders inside Afghanistan: it is the third time that, in my Islamic, national and Afghan capacity, I address you esteemed compatriots and ask for an end to war and the restoration of peace. During 11 years of war our homeland has suffered countless losses. The flower of the country's youth has perished in the flames of war; every corner of the country has been transformed into ruins and, sadly now, when the people are demanding peace, our common homeland is being destroyed in a fratricidal war.

In these conditions, the state of the Republic of Afghanistan, realizing that continued war does not solve problems, declared the policy of national reconciliation, talks, understanding, and agreement on an end to war, the restoration of peace and participation in a coalition administration. It asked all political forces which support peace to jointly strive to restore peace and control in the country. The state of the Republic of Afghanistan itself removed the obstacles blocking the way to understanding and negotiations and the cessation of war. The Geneva Accords were signed and all Soviet forces were withdrawn. We have continued the policy of national

reconciliation in a variety of forms and at various levels and were and are resolutely determined to continue this policy and to solve the problems inside and outside the country by political means and by negotiations.

You saw that Shahnawaz [Tanay], Sarwari and their treacherous collaborators along with Golbuddin under the direct supervision of Pakistani military inteligence planned a coup d'etat against the policy of national reconciliation. Shehnawaz and his collaborators, under instructions from Pakistan military intelligence, on the afternoon of 6 March, engaged in armed action against the policy of national reconciliation and subjected state and civil targets to air and ground attacks. The Armed Forces High Command, in a rapid and timely reaction, crushed the conspirators within a few hours and brought the situation in the country under control. As you know, during the first two hours of the attempted coup by Shahnawaz and his collaborators, Golbuddin expressed support for the plotters and instructed his armed groups to help Shahnawaz, this national traitor and his band. This proves that there was prior contact between Shahnawaz and Golbuddin. You also know well that Golbuddin, even inside the Alliance of Seven, used the language of power and, relying on his collaborators in the state of the Republic of Afghanistan, threatened the leaders of other organizations. You are witness to the fact that in the bloody clashes in Takhar, Parvan, Lowgar, Vardak, Baghlan, Konduz and other parts of the country, a large number of individuals in other organizatons were eliminated by members of Golbuddin's party and Golbuddin issued the orders to kill them.

Golbuddin, acting against the interests of the homeland, has engaged in conspiracy and intrigue against you too. Golbuddin and the traitors collaborating with him want to weaken you and other organizations and become the only leaders in the field. It is well-known that the coup plotters and murderers against the national interests of Afghanistan, saw no place for themselves, particularly in a coalition administration established through political means. Therefore planned a coup d'etat and conspiracy against the only way that can bring together all forces and group them around one joint national and Afghan organization. Golbuddin joined hands with people like Shahnawaz and Asadullah Sarwari, who are afraid of their criminal past and see no place for themselves in the peaceful future of the country, and acted and are still acting against the policy of national reconciliation and the unity and accord among Afghans.

Compatriot brothers, now the high interests of the country, the independence and the territorial integrity of Afghanistan and the defence of the independent and a free Afghanistan, the defense of the national reconciliation policy stand on one side against the power-seeking personal and group interests of Shahnawaz, Golbuddin and Sarwari on the other side. I call on you with an Afghan-Islamic voice to resist and stand firm against the coup plotters and those who talk high-handedly and put your fatherland in danger. Crush the elements traitorous to your national interests, the criminals and murderers of your children. The traitors and nation-sellers, who have embarked on ruining and destroying your united country under the instruction of Pakistani military intelligence and those who compromise Afghanistan's independence, territorial integrity and national dignity, are not merely the enemies of the government of Afghanistan but they are your enemies as well. To end the war and prevent bloodshed we proposed a ceasefire or the suspension of combat operations. Wherever you are in the country, stop combat operations against the Armed Forces of the Republic of Afghanistan. The relevant authorities of the Republic of Afghanistan have been instructed to hold their fire in various parts of the country provided you consent to negotiate and come to an understanding to end the fratricide. Now the time has come to use your weapons against the enemies of the country and the enemies of the people. Maintain the security of your areas and do not allow the areas where you are based to turn into battlefields or allow your brothers and sisters and kin to burn in the fire of war.

Compatriot brothers, the past 11 years show that war cannot resolve even the smallest problems in Afghanistan. Look at the villages in your areas. War has turned the fertile land of our country to barren waste. Look at the faces of your children and compatriots who are tired of the war. War has obstructed the supply of basic goods, medicine and other needs of our compatriots. Eventually Afghans must sit round a table to talk and rebuild the ruins of the country. Afghans and those who loves Afghanistan, the common country of all Afghanistan, should heal the injuries caused by the 11-year-old war. The future of Afghanistan will be determined by those who take steps for peace and negotiations. Those who destroy theselves by their own hands and draw their country toward further destruction and obliteration by continued war and fratricide in their country have no interest in a united and prosperous Afghanistan but act on the instructions of aliens. Afghan destroys Afghan and brother destroys brother because of power-seeking and arrogance. Do not allow our country to become weak and defenseless because of alien plans.

The Afghan Government, in the month of Dalw [22 January-21 February] put forward a series of new proposals to end the war and restore peace in the country, based on a cease-fire or the suspension of combat operations between the two sides, i.e., you and the Afghan Armed Forces. In any part of the country you are you can secure the security of your areas by taking this patriotic step. The Afghan Government will respond to your proposals and opinions. To prevent the slaughtering of compatriots by rockets and heavy weapons which kill your civilian compatriots, the Afghan Government is ready to stop firing Scud rockets on your armed positions in return for an end to rocket attacks on our cities. Together with the declaration of a truce the Afghan Government is ready to buy your heavy weapons according to set prices and give you the opportunity to engage in peaceful activities and decent work. You can

set up various commissions to contact government authorities to take action to release and exchange prisoners on both sides.

Similarly the Afghan Government has proposed that all organizations including you [word indistinct] of the armed groups send your representatives for negotiations and understanding to end the war and guarantee peace to the government authorities of the Republic of Afghanistan. The Afghan Government guarantees the security and safety of the aforementioned representatives during the negotiations and will allow them to return to you.

I address the armed commanders and group leaders along the Jalalabad-Towr Kham highway: your compatriots are suffering because of the lack of security in these cities and the country's economy is being damaged. Stop (?blocking) the Towr Kham-Jalalabad highway and allow supplies and the other needs of our compatriots to be carried along this highway. We have already announced our willingness to declare this highway a corridor of peace and for all combat operations to cease if you agree and promise in response.

Dear brothers, when the state of the Republic of Afghanistan has left open all avenues for talks, contacts, and understanding and welcomes your patriotic decision regarding the cessation of war and the restoration of peace, war loses its importance and is unjustifiable. During the last three years, particularly during the last year, we removed a series of factors which caused differences and expressed our readiness to end the fratricidal war. We are determined, in the future too, to continue the policy of national reconciliation which is the only way to safeguard a free, independent Afghanistan with national unity and territorial integrity. In order to realize this Islamic, humane and Afghan policy we need the participaiton of all forces and a decisive decision by you brothers.

Brother compatriots, armed group leaders and commanders inside the country: We are awaiting your goodwill and patriotic response. Make your decisions and take a courageous step toward putting an end to the fratricidal war. We are waiting for your brother compatriots to separate from the path of the renegades and traitors, to give a positive response to our Islamic, humane and Afghan voice and that of your compatriots who are weary of war, by ending the war and restoring peace in your own regions. I pray Almighty God to give assistance to all peace-loving Afghans who want to restore peace and end the fratricidal war and to give them strength so that in these critical moments in the history of the country we can put an end to war and create a powerful wall against those who attack the territory, honor and dignity of the country. Success comes from God!

Najibullah Issues Decrees, Awards, Promotions

LD1403215390 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 14 Mar 90

[Text] Under a decree from esteemed Najibullah, president of Afghanistan, the following officers have been awarded the badge of the April Revolution for their valuable services and active participation in repelling and neutralizing the abortive coup d'etat of Shahnawaz and Golbuddin: Brigadier General 'Abdul Baqi, son of 'Abdorrazaq, deputy commander of general command of Kabul Garrison.

Brigadier General Yaqub, son of Morad Khan, deputy commander of Kabul Garrison.

Under a decree from esteemed Najibullah, president of Afghanistan, Fazi Haq Khaliqyar, governor-general of the northwest zone, has been awarded the badge of the Red Banner in recognition of his valuable services and effective measures against the treacherous actions of Shahnawaz and Golbuddin.

Under a decree from esteemed Najibullah, president of Afghanistan, the following officers have been promoted to the rank of brigadier general in recognition of their active participation, courage and bravery in repulsing the failed coup detate of Shahnawaz and Golbuddin:

Colonel [Col] Shaykh Fazloddin, son of Bakhtoddin.
Col. Nurolhaq, sone of 'Abdul Satar.
Col. Barialay, son of 'Abdul Ghafur.
Col. 'Abdul Majid, son of 'Abdul Ghias.
Col. (?Abdul) Rahim, son of Ghulam Jaylani.
Col. Muhammad Karim, son of Muhamad Rafiq.
Col. Muhammad Mokhtar, son of 'Abdul Qadir.
Col. 'Abdul Malek, son of Saleh Muhammad.
Col. 'Abdul Satar, son of Gul Rahim.
Col. Muhammad Homayun, son of Hayatollah.
Col. Wahidullah, son of Ghulam Mohayoddin.
Col. Muhammad Rafiq, son of Muhammad Hosayn.
Col. Shamsol Ahmad, son of Gul Ahmad.
Col. 'Abdul Majid, son of Qeliq.
Col. Habibullah, son of Hakim Shah.
Col. Muhammad Nazem, son of Sherdel.
Col. Jalandar Shah, son of Malek Shah.
Col. Abdorrazaq, son of Muhammad Nader.
Col. Gholam Rabani, son of Ghulam Sarwar.
Col. Muhammad Omar, son of Haji Sardar.
Col. Gholam Haydar, son of Abdorrahim.
Col. Muhammad Taher, son of Muhammad Haydar.
Col. Muhammad Halim, son of Muhammad Karim.

Mujahidin, Army Troops Clash in Kabul, Khowst

Pro-Tanay Pilots Destroy Ammo Dump

BK1403131590 Lahore THE NATION in English 14 Mar 90 p 10

[Text] Zahedan—Pilots loyal to former Afghan Defence Minister and leader of abortive coup General Shahnawaz Tanay destroyed an ammunition depot in Kabul

Sunday [11 March]. German news agency quoting press sources of Afghan resistance movement has reported that the ammunition depot was destroyed by four fighter planes.

Three hundred persons were killed or wounded in the attack. The agency quoting resistance sources reported that mujahidin captured Pol-e Khomri city in Baghlan Province when a regiment of government troops defected to them.

The agency adds that in Herat city located in the west of Afghanistan, soldiers of Fourth Division of Afghan army had defected to Muslim mujahidin.

Rockets Kill 1, Injure 11

LD1403180890 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 14 Mar 90

[Text] Today two American cluster-type rockets were fired by Pakistan-backed extremists at residential areas of Kabul. One compatriot was martyred and 11 others were injured. The BAKHTAR INFORMATION AGENCY military section reports that the injured were immediately taken to hospital and are under medical treatment and care. The explosives scattered by the American rockets have been quickly collected and neutralized. Much material damage was also caused by the rockets.

Fierce Fighting Continues

BK1503032290 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 15 Mar 90

[Text] According to reports from Afghanistan, fierce fighting is continuing between mujahidin and Kabul regime forces around Khowst city. The mujahidin, during the successful attacks captured eight security posts.

According to a report, the mujahidin also captured military posts in the outskirts of Qandahar city. They shot down a Kabul regime fighter aircraft and set fire to an ammunition depot. The mujahidin also fired three rockets on the eastern industrial area of Kabul yesterday. They captured two outer posts during attacks on (Shaykh Misri), headquarters of (Sarkut) District, west of Jalalabad. The mujahidin also attacked the KHAD headquarters at (Augustine Gate) area of Herat and killed seven agents and injured 11.

95 Kabul Militiamen Killed

BK1503153290 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 15 Mar 90

[Text] Reports from Afghanistan say mujahidin and Kabul regime forces are locked in heavy fighting in several provinces, including Lowgar and Paktia. A total of 65 Kabul regime militiamen were reportedly killed in a battle with mujahidin forces in Lowgar Province recently. In mujahidin attacks on Paghman posts on the outskirts of Kabul, 30 Kabul militiamen were killed. The mujahidin also destroyed an ammunition dump during the operation. Similar battle reports have also been received from Farah and Balkh Provinces.

Tanay Holds News Conference in Lowgar Province

BK1503060190 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 15 Mar 90 p 8

[From Rahimullah Yusufzai]

[Text] Lowgar (Afghanistan), March 14—The former Afghan Defence Minster Gen. Shahanawaz Tanay addressed a press conference in a Mujahidin-controlled area in Lowgar Province, about 70 kilometres south of Kabul, Wednesday morning [14 March].

A group of Western, Pakistani, Arab and Afghan journalists, including two women who survived a bombing attack by warplane of the Kabul regime and overcame a hazardous journey through Paktia and Lowgar provinces to reach their destination in the wee hours Wednesday. The trip was arranged by Golbuddin Hekmatyar's Hezbe-e Eslami and the news conference was held in one of its bases. It was intended to show that Gen. Tanay had been in Afghanistan and had not arrived in Pakistan, as widely reported in the press since the failure of his coup attempt against President Dr. Najibullah.

Wearing his general's uniform, Gen. Tanay was flanked by former PDPA [People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan] Politburo member Niaz Muhammad Muhmand, former Air Force Chief of Staff, Lt. Gen. Abdul Qadir Agah, and former Afghan army communications chief Brig. Gen. Ghulam Hazrat.

AFP Reports News Conference

BK1503122490 Hong Kong AFP in English 1145 GMT 15 Mar 90

[Text] Dobandi, Afghanistan, March 15 (AFP)—His eyes flashing above his thick moustache and in Afghan Army uniform, General Shawnawaz Tanay says he is neither a communist nor a mujahidin prisoner since his failed putsch against President Najibullah. But he has adopted the rhetoric of fundamentalist mujahidin leader Golbuddin Hekmatyar's Hezb-e Eslami faction, whose armed men surround him at this village in mountainous Lowgar Province, south of Kabul.

"I am neither a communist, nor a left-wing extremist," contrary to what the pro-Soviet regime in Kabul says, repeats Gen. Tanay, who was sacked as Afghan defense minister after he launched the coup attempt March 6. At the time, the general was considered leader of a hardline communist wing of Mr. Najibullah's ruling People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan (PDPA). Gen. Tanay fled Kabul on March 7, as forces loyal to the president crushed the coup attempt.

After a 24-hour trek by jeep, on foot and sometimes through the snow, punctuated by an air raid that wounded three mujahidin, about 30 journalists were able

to meet the fugitive general at Dobandi, a Hezb-e Eslami bastion 100 kilometres (62 miles) south of Kabul. The site was guarded by anti-aircraft guns scattered across one hillside, while dozens of Hezb-e Eslami mujahidin armed with Kalashnikov assault rifles stood around the diminutive Gen. Tanay, who is aged about 40.

Gen. Tanay told reporters Wednesday [14 March] he favored the establishment of a transitional "revolutionary council" to hold power until an "Islamic" government can be set up in Kabul—ideas repeatedly advocated by Mr. Hekmatyar. "My parents are Muslims and I'm a Muslim patriot," said the general, who like Mr. Hekmatyar is a member of the Pathan tribe.

Mr. Hekmatyar was not present at the press conference, but one of the Muslim fundamentalist leader's lieutenants, Nawab Salim, translated Gen. Tanay's words from Pushtu to English.

The general thanked Mr. Hekmatyar for his "cooperation." Mr. Najibullah has accused the mujahidin leader of backing Gen. Tanay in the coup attempt, something Mr. Hekmatyar has neither confirmed nor denied.

Niaz Muhammad Muhmand, sacked as secretary of the PDPA Central Committee for his role in the coup attempt, stood by and advised Gen. Tanay as he spoke to reporters.

The former defense minister stressed that he was commanding his forces from a "mobile headquarters" and that fighting was continuing north of Kabul. He added that he could count on support from officers in the southeastern town of Khowst, who "at the right moment will take over" the government garrison town 35 kilometers (22 miles) from the Pakistani border.

The coup failed because "foreign aircraft" bombed "our means of communications," Gen. Tanay said, before demanding that the "Soviets release Afghanistan from their grip."

Gen. Tanay, wearing a uniform cap and an Afghan Army blouse that covered his general's epaulettes, said he "never went" to Pakistan, though he said his family took refuge there on March 7. Sources in the Pakistani border town of Peshawar had said the general fled there with his family by helicopter when the coup attempt crumbled.

At Qasim Kheyl, on the snow-slick and tortuous road to Dobandi, villagers told journalists Tuesday that several vehicles had passed by the previous day bound toward Lowgar Province from the direction of the Pakistani border. Some of the villagers were convinced Gen. Tanay was in one of the vehicles.

Just before midnight Tuesday an Afghan Air Force plane bombed the journalists' convoy as their jeeps passed, with headlights ablaze, through hilly terrain near Qasim Kheyl. One bomb landed near the convoy, wounding three Hezb-e Eslami mujahidin.

Soviet Reportage on Coup Aftermath, 'Azimi Talk

WA1303160790

For Soviet media reportage on the aftermath of the attempted coup on 6 March, including an interview with Defense Minister Muhammad Aslam Watanjar on the situation, see page 19 of the 12 March Soviet Union DAILY REPORT.

For a Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA interview with Colonel General N. 'Azimi, first deputy defense minister, on the Soviet role in Afghanistan and prospects for peace, see page 22 of the 12 March Soviet Union DAILY REPORT.

Bangladesh

Gunfire From India Kills Three Border Guards

BK1503063990 Hong Kong AFP in English 0612 GMT 15 Mar 90

[Text] Dhaka, March 15 (AFP)—Three Bangladeshi security force guards were killed Wednesday [14 March] while on border patrol and several others injured by shots fired from across the frontier with India, officials here said Thursday.

They declined to give further details but said a protest would be lodged to Indian authorities over Wednesday's incident near the southeastern town of Barkal in the Rangamati Hill District bordering India's Mizoram State.

Press reports quoting local officials said a group of security force personnel on patrol near the border came under sudden fire from "uniformed armed" men on the other side of the frontier. Three guards were killed on the spot and several others wounded, the reports said.

It was not clear whether the attackers were regular Indian border guards, but guards on both sides have fired across the border in the past.

Rangamati is one of the three Bangladeshi hill districts where the outlawed Shanti Bahini group from the dominant Chakma tribe is fighting a 16-year-old bush war for autonomy and the expulsion of Bengali-speaking Moslem settlers.

The insurgency and the question of the repatriation of thousands of Bangladeshi tribesmen who have taken refuge in India are among several major irritants in Dhaka's relations with New Delhi.

India

Rajya Sabha, Lok Sabha Discuss Kashmir Issue

BK1403160490 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 14 Mar 90

[Excerpts] The committee of political parties on Kashmir affairs is working on a plan to restart developmental activity in Jammu and Kashmir and provide job opportunities to the youth. This was disclosed by the minister in charge of Kashmir affairs, Mr George Fernandez, in the Rajya Sabha today. He was intervening in the special discussion on the situation in the state which the house took up in the morning, setting aside the question hour. Mr Fernandez said that the nefarious propaganda going on in the state has to be countered effectively. This the committee is considering seriously. He said immediate attention should be given to the difficulties being faced by the people leaving the valley. The committee has visited the relief camp in Delhi and plans to go to Jammu during the weekend. [passage omitted]

Members in the Lok Sabha cutting across party lines today condemned Pakistan's interference in Jammu and Kashmir and called for united action by all concerned. They were taking part in an inconclusive discussion on the motion of thanks to the president for his address to both houses of parliament. The situation in the valley remained the main focus of the discussion. The motion was moved by Mr Harikishore Singh, Janata Dal.

A demonstration was held in New Delhi today demanding action against Pakistani-trained terrorists who are indulging in subversive activities in the Kashmir Valley. The BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party] leaders, Mr. V.K. Malhotra, Mr. Kedar Nath Sahaney, and Madan lal Khurana, led the demonstrators. Later, a memorandum to this effect was addressed to the prime minister.

PLO Chief: Kashmir 'Integral Part of India'

BK1403045090 Delhi Doordarshan Television Network in English 1600 GMT 13 Mar 90

[Text] The Palestine Liberation Organization chief, Mr. Yasir 'Arafat, has said that Kashmir is an integral part of India and advised Pakistan not to internationalize the issue. Talking to newsmen in Tunis, he said the Simla agreement has stood the test of time and provided a good framework for sorting out problems between India and Pakistan.

The external affairs minister for India, Mr. I.K. Gujral, has returned home after a nine-day visit to Brussels, Belgrade, and Tunis. Mr. Gujral held talks with several leaders, including the PLO chief, at Tunis. A report:

[Begin correspondent's recording] During his stay in Tunisia, Mr. Gujral met a number of Arab leaders and apprised them of developments in South Asia. Mr. Gujral called on PLO chief Mr. Yasir 'Arafat and the foreign minister of the Palestine Liberation Organization, Mr. Faruq Qaddumi. He also met with the foreign ministers from Bahrain, Senegal, and Cuba. [end recording]

Home Minister: 'No Role' for UN in Kashmir

BK1503092290 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 15 Mar 90

[Text] The home minister told the Lok Sabha that the government has no proposal to hold talks with subversives in Jammu and Kashmir. In a written reply, Mufti Mohammad Sayeed also said that the government has evolved a multi-pronged strategy to tackle the situation in the state. This involves control of law and order, reestablishing the authority of the state, isolating the secessionists, and restoring confidence of the people through administrative and political measures.

India has maintained that the UN observers posted in Kashmir have no role in maintaining the line of actual control there, nor do they have any business to interfere in the internal affairs of the country. The external affairs minister, Mr. I.K. Gujral, told the Lok Sabha today that the UN observers were posted to supervise the post-1965 war cease-fire line. However, after the 1971 war the line of actual control was agreed upon by India and Pakistan and respected by both the countries without any role for the UN personnel. Mr. Gujral's observation came while replying to supplementaries.

The external affairs minister said New Delhi has taken due notice of the provocative statement made by the Pakistani prime minister about Kashmir yesterday. Mr. Gujral made it clear that Kashmir is an integral part of India and India has the will and confidence to protect its interests against any Pakistani violations on the border.

Replying to the main question, the home minister, Mufti Mohammad Sayeed, accused Pakistan of trying to provoke the religious and parochial sentiments in the minds of the people in Kashmir Valley. Referring to incidents of Pakistani mobs crossing the international border into the Indian territory, the home minister said that the attention of the world has been drawn to these incidents.

Baluchistan Chief Cited on Kashmir Situation

BK1503095790 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 15 Mar 90

[Text] In Pakistan, the chief minister of Baluchistan Province, Nawab Akbar Khan Bugti, has accused Islamabad government of creating a war fever over the Kashmir issue to divert people's attention from the real problem. In an interview with the leading English daily in Islamabad, Nawab Bugti ruled out any possibility of a war between India and Pakistan over the Kashmir issue.

President Outlines Policy Goals to Parliament

BK1203094190 Delhi Doordarshan Television Network in Hindi 0532 GMT 12 Mar 90

[Address by President Venkataraman to a joint session of parliament at the Central Hall of Parliament House in New Delhi—live]

[Text] Honorable members. [unintelligible interruptions by parliament members] It gives me great pleasure to welcome you to this first session of parliament in 1990. I extend to you my best wishes for the successful completion of the budgetary and legislative business ahead.

The elections recently held to the legislative assemblies of the eight states and one union territory have by and large reaffirmed the verdict of the people in the last Lok Sabha elections in favor of change. My government assumed office only 100 days ago. In this short time it has already taken a number of positive initiatives in several spheres to fulfill the pledges it has made. My government has responded to the sacred trust reposed in it by our people. [interruptions die down].

The situation in Jammu and Kashmir, which had deteriorated for the last few years, continues to be serious. Government has noted with particular concern that external forces have tried to encourage terrorism to internationalize the issue and to encourage intrusions across the border. My government has acted firmly against these forces. Jammu and Kashmir State is an integral part of India, and my government will not brook any interference from others in our internal affairs. [applause] The state government is taking all possible measures to check and curb terrorism and secessionism and to restore normalcy. My government will take positive steps to solve all legitimate grievances and to accelerate development activity in the state.

Government attaches high priority to restoring normalcy in Punjab and generating a feeling of confidence among the people of that state. Steps are being taken to involve all sections of the people to find a solution to the problem in a spirit of reconciliation and concensus. The state administration will be firm and fair, and there will be no compromise with terrorism and secessionism. The government has fulfilled the promise of repealing the 59th constitutional amendment which contains the special provisions for promulgating emergency applicable only to this state. My government seeks the cooperation of all to create conditions conducive to the restoration of democratic process in the state.

We are proud of secular basis of our nationhood. Government is taking measures to strengthen secularism. The National Integration Council has been reconstituted and will meet soon. The communal situation has been improved visibly since the government assumed office. My government has taken a fresh initiative with a view to resolving the Ram Janambhoomi-Babri Masjid [site claimed by both Hindu and Muslim communities for religious purposes] dispute amicably. A solution of such an emotional issue should be arrived at through a dialogue and concensus. A three-member committee has been set up by the government to find an acceptable solution.

The government has initiated several measures to provide for relief and rehabilitation of those affected by communal violence, including the victims of the 1984 riots in Delhi and 1989 riots in Bhagalpur. Special courts have been set up in Delhi and Meerut to try cases connected with communal riots. Bihar government has been asked to set up special courts connected with the riots in Bhagalpur. No effort will be spared to guarantee full protection to the minorities and to maintain communal harmony. Government is effectively monitoring the implementation of the 15-point program for the welfare of minorities. A panel has been set up to suggest steps for the implementation of the Gujral Committee recommendations on the promotion of Urdu.

To strengthen the national fabric, it is of utmost importance that the center and the states work together in a spirit of cooperation, goodwill, and harmony. To ensure smooth center-state relations, government has decided to set up an interstate council. The first meeting of the council will be held soon. The government has decided to set up a national security council with a view to evolving long-term policies appropriate to the regional and international environment.

My government would like to assure our people regarding the high state of our defense preparedness and the morale of the armed forces. We are fully prepared to meet any external threat.

Problems of the ex-servicemen will receive full consideration. Government is examining the modalities for implementing government's commitment to the proposal of one-rank, one-pension for ex-servicemen.

The dignity of the nation and the individual rest in no small measure upon a strong and a vibrant democratic institution. These in turn are closely linked with a set of sound and lasting values in our public life. My government will fight those trends which have in recent years sapped our democratic institutions of the vitality and strength. Government is taking steps to ensure that our election system is rid of the debilitating effects of money and muscle power. A committee on electoral reforms has been constituted comprising representatives of political parties and eminent persons. [unintelligible shouting] A bill has been introduced in parliament for the creation of the institution of the Lok Pal [ombudsman]. Even the highest political offices in the country, including that of the prime minister, will be placed under the purview of the Lok Pal.

The government will introduce suitable legislation to set up a high-level judicial commission for the appointment of Supreme Court judges and for the transfer of High Court judges.

I have also asked the parliament to reconsider the Post Office Amendment Bill. The bill had created widespread concern (?that could) seriously interfere with the citizens right to privacy.

A free media imparts strength and vitality to the democratic process. My government has already initiated steps to grant autonomy to the electronic media. The Prasar Bharati Bill was introduced in the last session of parliament. The government is committed to ensure freedom of the press. Concrete steps will be taken to guarantee the people's right to information, and legislation will be introduced to amend the Official Secrets Act.

The year 1989-90 has been a difficult year for the economy. The growth of production slowed down in both agriculture and industry compared to its growth in the previous year. The deceleration in the industrial sector was especially sharp with the production going up only by 4.2 percent in the first six months. A slow down in the growth has been accompanied by an intensification of macroeconomic imbalances which have built up in the past few years. The budgetary situation deteriorated significantly in the course of 1989-90. When the new government took office the budget deficit had reached rupees 13,790 crores. Prices came under pressure in 1989 despite the fact that it was the second year of good harvest. The balance of payment which had already come under strain in 1988-89 continued to show a large financing gap in 1989-90. The external debt position deteriorated further.

Since assuming office, my government has given the highest priority to improving the management of the economy. The procurement of rice has touched a new high at 9.32 million tons. Food grains stock in central pool has been augmented and now stand at 11.67 million tons, compared to 8.34 million tons at this time last year. Special efforts are being made to augment supplies of essential commodities through the public distribution system and to improve the functioning of the system. Prices of essential commodities such as rice, sugar, and ghee which had risen sharply earlier have shown a downward trend in the 3 months since the new government assumed office. [Unintelligible shouting] However, the government is fully aware that the overall price situation continues to be difficult. [President addresses shouting members] You will have ample opportunity to debate this address in parliament. Please do not disturb.

There be no complacency on this point, and control of inflation will continue to be our first priority in economic management. The balance of payments problems demands urgent attention. This problem is also basically a reflection of the fiscal crisis facing the country and resolution of the problem requires a restoration of fiscal balance. There is significant scope for efficient import substitution and reducing the growth in consumption of bulk commodities where our dependence on imports is increasing. However, the only lasting solution to our external payments difficulties is to greatly strengthen the export effort.

There are distinctly positive trends in the current year with exports growing very much faster than imports. A concerted national effort has to be mounted to intensify our export drive. Rapid growth of exports, especially exports involving high domestic value addition, would receive a high priority in the strategy for economic management. Efficient import substitution combined with rapid growth in exports will ensure the economy remains on the path of self-reliant growth. A new three year import-export policy is being introduced in April. The policy aims at simplifying cumbersome procedures which lead to unnecessary delays and breed corruption. The policy will contain special incentives designed to boost exports.

The planning commission has been reconstituted and has begun to work on the approach to the eighth Five-Year Plan. The approach will be finalized shortly and submitted to the national development council for approval. The thrust of the eighth plan will be to ensure rapid growth with special focus on critical objectives of employment generation, alleviation of poverty, and redressal of the imbalances between the rural and the urban areas.

A key feature of the eighth plan will be the introduction of structural and institutional changes to ensure decentralization of planning and plan implementation. Our farmers are the backbone of our economy. Their well-being and prosperity are the strength and prosperity of India. Sustained growth in rural income is a necessary condition for successful industrialization. Government will pay special attention to the needs of the agricultural and rural sectors, including its requirement for economic and social infrastructure. Our aim will be to achieve a substantial increase in yield of major crops, especially in unirrigated, rain-fed, and dryland areas. Government is firmly committed toward ensuring remunerative prices to the farmers backed by market-support arrangement. To this end, the government will introduce changes in the formula for computing cost of production in order to ensure full accounting of all costs. This new system will be reflected in the support prices to be announced for the next kharif [autumn] season. Government would also associate representatives of the farming community in the formulation of agricultural policy. With this in view, a standing committee on agriculture, including representatives of the farming community, has been set up. Government is committed to a genuine Panchayati Raj [local body administration] system to enable the rural population to participate fully in planning and development. Specific proposals in this regard as well as proposals for civic bodies will be put before the interstate council.

Water resources development is vital for our agricultural strategy, and my government will give high priority to this sector. Government is also committed to find solutions for interstate water disputes through dialogue and negotiations with the concerned states. The prosperity of the agricultural sector is inseparable from the well-being of the agricultural and other rural labor. This vast

segment is still unorganized and exploited. My government is committed to working out arrangements for giving them fair wages and a larger share of the fruit of rural development so as to provide them a better quality of life. As an earnest of our commitment to the weaker sections, some more land reform laws are being placed in the ninth schedule of the Constitution to protect them from any challenge by vested interests. Government also proposes to introduce a scheme of debt relief to small farmers, landless agricultural laborers, artisans, and weavers on loans up to rupees 10,000. A detailed scheme in this regard will be announced in this session.

Efforts to accelerate agricultural growth must be accompanied by measures to encourage rapid growth of industry. My government's industrial policy will be designed to serve the objective of growth, expansion of productive employment, and balanced regional development. Healthy growth of the industrial sector requires a sustained growth in the productivity and technological modernization. Our industry must be made more competitive internationally to provide the basis for sustained growth in export performance. My government will take steps to ensure the spread of industry to rural and backward areas of the country. Development of small-scale and agro and rural industries will receive special attention to facilitate harnessing of local resources and skills and the creation of gainful employment. Toward this aim, a new department called the Department of Small-Scale Industries and Agro and Rural Industries has been set up.

My government accords great importance to the public sector. The productivity of this sector and its ability to generate adequate investable resources is vital to our economic growth. Government is committed to ensuring functional autonomy of the public sector and creating conditions conducive to its efficient functioning within the framework of wider public accountability. My government will present a white paper on the public sector later this year.

Science and technology have an important role in our efforts to attain self-reliance and raise the standard of living of our people, particularly of the weaker section. Science and technology input will be used for generating and sustaining employment and increasing productivity in rural areas. We are proud of our scientists. Their achievements in the frontier areas of science and technology such as atomic energy, space research, advance materials, and biotechnology have been substantial, and scientific effort in these areas will get all encouragement from the government. Our scientists have played a valuable role in strengthening our development and they deserve our fullest support. The remarkable achievements in the indigenous missile development program are the result of their dedicated and laudable effort and are a landmark in our technological development.

The labor force plays a role of crucial importance in the production of assets and yet their interests are not always adequately protected. Workers' participation in management can overcome this problem and also make for better productivity. To ensure this, suitable legislation is under examination. The government will strive to ensure for all citizens the right to work to enable them to earn a livelihood and to become participants in the task of nation building. [applause] The government will introduce a constitutional amendment bill to enshrine the right to work as a fundamental right in the constitution. [applause]

Protection of environment is essential for sustainable development. While conserving natural resources like forests, the basic needs of the people, especially the weaker sections, will be taken care of. Particular attention will be paid to the interests of the tribals.

The Bhopal gas tragedy is still vivid in our memory. There has been an unconscionable delay in providing relief and succor to the victims. My government has already announced its decision to provide interim relief to those victims—residents in 36 affected municipal wards in Bhopal. The quantum of interim relief to be provided is rupees 360 crore. Various social action groups have filed petitions in the Supreme Court on the issue of an adequate compensation for the Bhopal gas victims. My government has supported the petitions before the Supreme Court and will pursue the case for adequate compensation in the court.

The government will also introduce legislation making it compulsor for factories and installations using hazardous chemicals to have a minimum compensatory insurance (?guard). This would ensure that innocent victims of accidents occurring in these plants are provided immediate relief.

The scheduled castes and tribes are one-fourth of our population. There can be no real progress for us as a nation unless we enable them to live with dignity. My government is committed to strong affirmative action to redress the economic and social injustices which the scheduled castes and tribes continue to suffer. A beginning has been made and several concrete measures have already been taken. The constitution has been amended to extend for another 10 years reservation for scheduled castes and scheduled tribes in the Lok Sabha and the State Vidhan Sabhas [legislative assemblies].

Legislation for preventing atrocities against them which was passed in 1989, but was not operationalized has been brought into force with effect from 20 January 1990. A decision has been taken to fulfill the long-standing and legitimate aspirations of the scheduled castes converts to Buddhism by extending to them the facilities available to the scheduled castes. A bill to give effect to this decision will be introduced during the session of Parliament.

The other backward classes constitute another area of special concern to us and a cabinet committee has been set up to consider the implementation of the Mandal Commission recommendation. [shouting and noise

starts again] As a measure of our concern for sections of our society facing the more severe form of discrimination, it has been decided to accelerate the program of finding alternative avenues of employment for scavengers. The welfare of the handicapped is engaging special attention of the government and it is proposed to give new depth to programs for rehabilitation of the handicapped.

Women are among the most underprivileged sections of the Indian society. They continue to face discrimination despite the constitutional guarantee of equality. Our policies and programs will have as a basis the recognition of human dignity and equality of law in everyday life. The government is considering a legislation to set up a national commission on women.

Youths have an important role in the transformation of society. [noise continues; president tells members to sit down] My government is sensitive to the concerns and aspirations of our people. We look to our youth to build a new India based on equality and social justice. [Words indistinct] pose a special responsibility to the youth. The best possible opportunities would therefore be opened to them. We shall reorient... [president pauses amidst continuing noise] When I was the chairman of the Rajya Sabha, I asked you and ordered you to sit down. Please now sit down. Please sit down.

Education is essential for the fuller development of the people. However, we are still very far from our goal of universal literacy. My government has taken steps for a review of education policy to make it relevant to the needs of our people and to provide equal opportunities to all.

A sound health care system is an important individual and social requirement. To achieve the goal of health for all by year 2000, greater emphasis will be laid on the preventive and promotive aspects of primary health care. [The president interrupts his speech again as the noise persists while an unidentified announcer says in English: There is a slight disorder in the proceedings; but as per the instructions from the secretary general of the Lok Sabha, our cameras are focused on the president of India.]

To achieve the goal of health for all by year 2000, greater emphasis will be laid on the preventive and promotive aspects of primary health care. Effective control of population is also essential if we are to consolidate our economic gains and achievements and improve the quality of life of our people. Concrete steps are necessary to reflect the high priority which should be given to this area. There is a need for national consensus on this.

Our foreign policy is rooted in our commitment to nonalignment and our aspirations for a peaceful world free of domination, exploitation, and war. We welcome the profound changes that are taking place in the international scene and the transition from conflict and confrontation to cooperation and consensus. We will continue to contribute to cooperative global endeavor to promote disarmament, strengthen peace, eliminate racial discrimination, provide environmental protection, and build a more equitable world economic order.

Consistent with the high priority attached by my government to revitalizing relations with our neighbors, we have initiated an intensive dialogue for finding mutually acceptable solutions to our outstanding problems, strengthening of our friendship, and enlarging the area of our cooperation. These efforts are already showing results. The two visits to India by the king of Bhutan and the signing of new agreements on trade and commerce reflect the further consolidation of our traditionally close ties with Bhutan.

Our cordial relations with Bangladesh have strengthened by the recent visit to that country by our external affairs minister.

Our close friendly relations with Maldives were enhanced by the holding of the first meeting of India-Maldives joint commission in Male. The president of Maldives will pay a state visit to India later this month.

The government has taken an early initiative for a comprehensive solution of all outstanding problems with Nepal. Recent talks at the foreign ministerial and official level have led to a greater understanding of mutual interests and concern. Our close and age-old relationship with the people of Nepal will be further strengthened.

The bulk of the Indian peacekeeping force in Sri Lanka has returned home, and we hope to complete the phase of deinduction by the end of this month. Our Armed Forces have done a highly commendable job under difficult circumstances. On behalf of the nation, I would like to pay a tribute to the valor, dedication, and discipline of our Armed Forces and their sacrifices. [applause] India stands for the unity and integrity of Sri Lanka. We expect the Government of Sri Lanka to fully honor all the obligations under the India-Sri Lanka agreement and ensure the safety, security, and democratic aspirations of its Tamil-speaking population. My government believes that this would be in the interest of peace in Sri Lanka, harmony among all sections of the Sri Lankan people, and stability in the region.

Our relations with Pakistan have, unfortunately, come under strain as a result of the continued efforts to encourage and aid terrorist and secessionist activity in Jammu and Kashmir and Punjab. My government has made it very clear that we will not tolerate such interference in our internal affairs. We have impressed on the Government of Pakistan the need to abide by the letter and spirit of the Simla Agreement which has helped to maintain peace and provide an enduring framework for our relations. We hope such saner counsels will prevail in Pakistan, as we prefer peace, and enable us to normalize relations with that country.

We believe that ties between countries in South Asia must be maintained in tune with global trends toward dialogue, openness, and cooperation. SAARC [South

Asian Association for Regional Cooperation] provides a valuable institutional framework for promoting such a regional cooperation. We hope to expand the activities of SAARC to encompass cooperation in key economic areas for the benefit of all people of our region.

We value our traditional relations with Afghanistan and are taking steps to strengthen it further. We hope that there will be an early stoppage of bloodshed in Afghanistan with strict implementation of the Geneva accords, and a political solution arrived by Afghans themselves that would preserve Afghanistan's status as a sovereign, independent, and nonaligned country.

We have continued to strengthen our growing time-honored friendship and the multifaceted cooperation with the Soviet Union. Our relationship is firmly anchored in the India-Soviet treaty of peace, friendship, and cooperation. Our close understanding with the Soviet Union is manifested in a shared vision of a nuclear weapons-free nonviolent world.

Our relations with the United States of America continue to grow and diversify. The United States is our major trading partner and an important source of high technology. Our growing bilateral cooperation in various spheres reflects the great maturity in the mutual appreciation of the long best-term interests and objectives shared by two democracies.

The pace of diplomatic exchange between India and China is being accelerated, contributing to the development of mutually beneficial cooperation on the basis of pancasila. The foreign minister of China will be visiting India soon to carry forward the dialogue. We will continue our efforts to find a fair, reasonable, and mutually acceptable settlement of the boundary question consistent with our national interest.

We hope to see an early end to the conflict in Cambodia. A comprehensive solution should be based on full respect for Cambodia's sovereignty and integrity, and should ensure the nonreturn of the genocidal policy of the recent past.

It is a matter of deep satisfaction that the last bastion of colonialism in Africa is at long last crumbling with Namibia poised for independence. The prime minister will represent our people in the independence day ceremony in Namibia next week. [applause].

In South Africa too, signs of change are discernible. We share the worldwide rejoicing in the release of Nelson Mandela, the symbol of struggle against apartheid [applause] and we look forward to his visit to India. A national committee for felicitating Mr. Mandela has been formed under the chairmanship of the prime minister. My government firmly believes that sustained international pressure must continue to be maintained on the South African regime to bring about the early dismantling of apartheid.

We pledge our continued support to the valiant people of Palestine in their just struggle for a homeland of their own in a peaceful west Asia. We look forward to president Yasir 'Arafat's visit to India later this month.

Members will be called upon in this session to consider various measures. The railway budget, the general budget will be brought before you. We will also be considering the finance bill 1990-91, the Prasar Bharati Broadcasting Corporation of India Bill 1989, the Lok Pal Bill 1989, the Wildlife Protection Amendment Bill 1990, and various other legislative measures.

There is a fresh hope in the atmosphere. My government is working purposefully for building a strong India, an India based on the dignity of the individual, an India where the benefits of development will go to all, particularly to weaker sections and the poorest of the poor. The task is not easy. The challenges are tremendous, but we shall overcome.

We are determined to see that our people should have a brighter tomorrow. Thank you. Hail India.

Iran

Saudi Paper on Lifting of Rushdie Death Threat

LD1503002290 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1150 GMT 14 Mar 90

[Text] Jeddah, 14 Mar (SPA)—Iranian opposition sources disclosed that Israel has become a mediator with officials in the Iranian Government to urge the latter to withdraw the threat to kill the novelist of Indian origin, Salman Rushdie, who insulted the Prophet, may God's prayers and peace be upon him .

The sources told today's AL-MADINAH: "Iran agreed that it will not carry out any decision against such a novelist and that he, furthermore, can live an ordinary life like any British citizen on condition that he writes Khomeyni's autobiography and pays $80 million to the Iranian Government."

The sources pointed out: "The Iranian party which was empowered by the Iranian Government to do so was Mohammad Esma'il Shushtari, the minister of justice, who is close to Hashemi-Rafsanjani and Khamene'i and who used to be the official in charge of prisons."

The same sources told the daily: "The Iranian Government sent 'Ali Fallahiyan [minister of intelligence and security] to Israel, leading an important delegation, a month ago to convince Israel to mediate with the United States on a number of topics of interest to the Iranian Government." The sources added: "Fallahiyan's visit to Israel was not the first one; it was he who had paved the way for the contacts which took place between Hashemi-Rafsanjani and Israel—contacts which were exposed by Mehdi Hashemi."

*Yazdi: Death Verdict on Rushdie 'Irrevocable'

90OI0180A London KEYHAN in Persian
22 Feb 90 pp 1-2

[Text] One day after Hashemi-Rafsanjani, the president of the Islamic Republic, tried to diminish the severity of Ayatollah Khomeyni's verdict concerning the death sentence on Salman Rushdie to the level of "an opinion of a religious jurisprudence expert," Sheykh Mohammad Yazdi, chief of the judicial power, with the confirmation of Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i, through publication of an official declaration, rendered Hashemi-Rafsanjani's statements as incorrect and invalid and announced that Khomeyni's "verdict" is not an opinion or a judgment alone, but it is a binding and irrevocable verdict whereas another judge or leader cannot pass judgment on it. Here it should be noted that by another judge or leader, Sheykh Mohammad Yazdi meant Hashemi-Rafsanjani.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani, in his Friday prayers' speech of this week, in order to tone down the significance of Ayatollah Khomeyni's verdict with regard to the death sentence on Salman Rushdie, announced that the imam's opinion is one of a religious expert, whereas another similar expert could have made identical or like statement as well.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani emphasized that Khomeyni's verdict was not such an issue which should have necessitated so much ado by the Western world thereby imposing an economic boycott on Iran or caused them to turn away from the Islamic Republic.

He expressed his dissatisfaction with the Common Market member countries and said: Why do all the foreign ministers of the countries of arrogance gather together in the European Common Market and all attack Iran at once, after the announcement of a verdict by a religious expert? Well, you too should have asked your experts to analyze the situation and decide that the imam's opinion was not an Islamic verdict.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani went on to say: If the Western world deals with the matter in a wise and reasonable fashion, all would see that an expert in the Islamic jurisprudence had expressed God's decree or verdict the way he had interpreted or understood it. Here let's suppose that this verdict is not incidental, namely a group of people with Islamic inclination would say that he [Rushdie] should be brought to trial, while others would see it differently. When an expert gives his opinion on a matter, should there be so much agitation? Should there be such a far-reaching boycott? Should there be so much dissatisfaction? So much annoyance and perturbation that we see going on? It looks as if they are fanning the flames and seems that they have found a means to settle an account with us.

Opposition of the Chief of Judicial Power With Hashemi-Rafsanjani

On Saturday, 17 February, Yazdi, chief of the judicial power, who so far had not clashed with Hashemi-Rafsanjani, through the medium of a harsh message, practically made a response to Hashemi-Rafsanjani. In this message which is one of the harshest open oppositions to Hashemi-Rafsanjani since he became president, Yazdi announced: Hereby, through a legal and judicial eye we announce explicitly that this verdict is a binding and irrevocable one and not a religious judgment alone. Based on religious laws, his excellency the imam had issued the verdict that the offender in question should be sentenced to death. This is not an opinion or a mere religious judgment on which another judge or leader could pass a judgment too. On the contrary, this is a verdict and like all other similar judicial cases is binding and irrevocable. The best reason for attention to the quality of execution and the determination of any probable difficulty during execution of this sentence is the fact that those who make an attempt to carry out this deed, and if they lose their lives in the process, they will be considered martyrs. Just like the verdict of Jihad where there will be some martyrs along the way of execution. And as we know, in the Islamic system of government the principal leader is the main judge and he can either pass on the responsibility of the judgment to others or himself act as a superintendent—this is a fact which has been dealt with in the Constitution as well. Therefore, as the official in charge of the judicial power of the Islamic Republic of Iran, I announce to all Moslems of the world, particularly those who in a possible way have it in their power to take action, that this is a verdict issued by the founder of the Islamic Republic and that all such verdicts are binding and irrevocable. And for those who have it in their power to carry out this verdict, any deviation from the order will be construed as a sin or an infringement of the religious law, and I am quite sure that sooner or later this verdict will be carried out by the power of the Moslems.

Demonstration in Opposition to Hashemi-Rafsanjani's Opinion

Saturday evening, only a few hours after the announcement of the message by the chief of the judicial power, a group of individuals who were labelled as the "students of the universities and other higher educational institutions" by the regime's radio—though according to the statements by the same radio, other common people also joined the former groups—started a march from Tehran University and continued on through Shahreza and Ferdowsi avenues until they reached the British Embassy, where they began their demonstrations.

The students recited the slogan "According to Khomeyni, the heretic Salman Rushdie should be executed," "The cultural plot of imperialism must be annihilated," "Death to England, death to America." Likewise, the demonstrators also wished that Roger Cooper, the British merchant who is charged with spying and who is

imprisoned by the Islamic Republic, be executed as well. At these demonstrations one of the Hezbollahi students who has recently been expelled from England and Ansari, one of the close associates of Ahmad Khomeyni, also made speeches for the demonstrators.

The Islamic Republic radio, after reporting the student demonstrations in front of the British Embassy, also announced that the "Union of the Islamic Association of Students in Europe," with the publication of a proclamation, has announced its support with regard to Khomeyni's verdict concerning the author of the book "Satanic Verses."

Hashemi-Rafsanjani's Difficult Position

Hashemi-Rafsanjani, after the failure of his economic policies and the revelation of his bank accounts in the foreign banks, faces many grave problems in the country; similarly, with his postulating of Khomeyni's verdict as an "expert's opinion." He has created a bunch of new opponents for himself.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani's effort to render insignificant the verdict of Ayatollah Khomeyni and his lack of enthusiasm for not persisting with the execution of this verdict, one week after the speech by Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i and his emphasis for the execution of the death sentence against Salman Rushdie, is regarded as a means to deemphasize Khamene'i's statements.

Sediqi: It Does Not Concern Us

Kalim Sediqi, director of the Islamic Institute in London, shied away from confirming or condoning the death sentence against Salman Rhsudie—which has been confirmed recently by Tehran authorities. Sediqi who is considered to be one of the most enthusiastic supporters of Khomeyni and the Islamic Republic in England, in his speech before 150 Moslems from London's Westend district, stated: Whatever has happened in Tehran has nothing to do with us. This is an issue between the British Government and Iran. We are British Moslems and would like to live within the framework of the British laws.

While Sediqi was making this statement, a group of youngsters in the audience who did not seem to be even 10 years old, expressed their support for the death sentence against Salman Rushdie.

Sediqi, who is said to be enjoying all kinds of support from the Tehran regime, had recently made a trip to Tehran at the invitation of Iranian officials and while in Iran he had immensely expressed his appreciation for Khomeyni, Khamene'i, and the Islamic Republic as well. However, after his return to London this is the second time that his statements do not quite coincide with the claims of the Islamic regime's.

President Bush Confirms Phone Call 'Hoax'

LD1503112390 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 15 Mar 90

[Text] One week after the new White House scandal—by which, according to White House officials, the U.S. President was ridiculed by a telephone conversation—U.S. President George Bush confirmed that telephone contact in a meeting with reporters.

According to IRNA's report, without mentioning the details of what is now called the joke phone-call, George Bush said: Even with the same advanced knowledge [as heard], if a similar incident occurs, I will answer the phone once again.

After the passage of five days since remarks by the president of Islamic Iran, in which U.S. efforts during the last month to establish contacts with Iranian officials were unveiled, George Bush claimed that except for one phone call—which later proved to be a hoax and a trick—he has not taken any other measure for establishing contact with the president of Islamic Iran. However, continuing his interview, Bush pointed to White House efforts through what he called unordinary [Gheyr-e Mote'aref] and unofficial channels.

It is noteworthy that during the last few days the world press and media have mentioned the case of the hoax phone-call as an embarrasing incident for the White House. In that connection, THE WASHINGTON POST writes: Neither the White House spokesman, nor any other state officials have been able to explain how a hoax telephone call managed to find its way through a system which must be one of the most advanced and sophisticated systems available.

Scholars Issue 'Edict' on Peace With Israel

NC1203210290 Tehran International Service in Arabic 1730 GMT 12 Mar 90

[From the "Behind the News" program]

[Text] While clashes and confrontation continue in the occupied land, a document was signed by 53 Islamic figures from all over the Islamic world which banned conciliation with the Zionist entity and said that no concessions should be made to that entity. The joint religious edict [al-fatwa al-mushtarakah] states that jihad is the only way to liberate Palestine. The edict says that no one is entitled to give the Jews any assistance or help them settle in any part of Palestine. The edict considers the recognition of Israel as an act of perfidy against God, his apostle, and the Muslims. Here is a report on this topic:

The new edict, signed by 63 Muslim figures, recalls an earlier one passed by leading Muslim scholars from Iraq, Iran, and al-Azhar. In the early fifties, these scholars issued rulings banning conciliation with and recognition of the Hebrew state and assigning Muslims the duty of Islamic jihad in order to regain Palestine.

The new edict clarifies the opinion of Islamic scholars and thinkers vis-a-vis the current tendency among certain politicians to sue, with irresponsible zest, for peace with the Jews. Bowing to the pressures of the status quo, these politicians overlook the religious, political, doctrinal, and psychological implications of their actions.

The ban on conciliation with Jews, which is an unambiguous Islamic ruling, should reverse the current course of moral weakness and reshape the conflict according to Islamic terms. The official apathy to the mobilizing power of Islam has consistently led the champions of peaceful settlement from one defeat to another and from one concession to another and brought them no gain whatsoever.

Islam and its legal rulings are a source of power, even in the worst situations of defeat and retreat. This is a fact born out by the faithful application of Islam which characterized the outbreak of the Islamic Palestinian intifadah. The intifadah came in a time of Arab weakness marked by defeatism and hostility to Islam on the official level. A strong political stand in the face of the Zionist entity was feasible. What happened, however, was exactly the opposite. The defeatist mentality led to concessions including the recognition of the enemy. The enemy was offered peace and most of Palestine. This offer was made in disregard of the Islamic religious rulings, of popular opposition, and of the achievements of the intifadah. The intifadah continued thanks to the Islamic faith.

The lack of religious and political integrity took the Arab officials from one miserable state of affairs to another. Islam would have given them integrity had they been loyal to it.

The recent edict is a boost to the intifadah and to its continuation. It brings hope to the general Islamic situation and encourages the Palestinian Muslims to continue to resist the offers of a sham peace. The edict is a great strategic gain to the intifadah, for those who signed it represent a great popular force in the Islamic world. Among them are Shaykh (Rashid al-Ghannushi), head of the Islamic Revival Movement [harakat al-nahdah al-islamiyah] in Tunisia, the prime minister of the transitional Afghan Government, the Omani mufti, and others.

In a related development, the Islamic Resistance Movement-Hamas has called for a general strike on 18 March in protest against the Baker-Shamir plan. The Islamic Resistance Movement issued a statement at the beginning of the 18th month of the intifadah, denouncing peace plans and calling for vigilance against the risks of such plans.

UN Report, Amnesty International Reaction Noted

LD1003112190 Tehran IRNA in English 0620 GMT 10 Mar 90

[Text] London, Mar, 10, IRNA—Iran has agreed to allow a United Nations official to make a second visit to the country to investigate accusations of human rights violations later this year, and the agreement was adopted unanimously at a meeting of the 43-member UN Human Rights Commission, just two weeks after the publication of the UN's first human rights reports on Iran.

That first report highlighted a number of areas where human rights bodies had taken information from Iranian opposition and terrorist groups and published false allegations, without confirming the authenticity of them. One such human rights group was Amnesty International (AI), based in London.

Amnesty finally commented on the UN report this week, but they have not referred to any of its key points, nor to the fact that the UN's special representative, Reynaldo Galindo Pohl, "met" and "spoke to" a number of people who, according to AI, were allegedly executed some time ago.

In clause 182 of the report, a man named Ghulam Reza Bagheban stated that he had been held at Ahwaz prison and that "he had always been very well treated." It added that he said "during his time in prison, he saw his name in a Mojahedin (Khalq) publication, included in a list of people who supposedly had been executed" and he "affirmed that he knew of many similar situations."

At the request of the UN's special representative, Bagheban "offered to provide him later with a copy of the Mojahedin publication in which his name had appeared." The report added that "several persons belonging to a group of 78 people heard collectively by the special representative, stated that their names had appeared in lists of executed persons published by the (outlawed) mujahidin organisation."

Pohl himself said in his conclusion that he was "able to verify that four persons shown on lists of executed persons were still alive." He continued that "another dozen persons also maintained that they had been included on the lists, but they did not have their identity cards on them when the case was examined."

Amnesty International (AI) claimed that "with regard to the mass execution of political prisoners in the latter part of 1988," AI "has never received a reply from the Iranian authorities to its request made in December 1988 for information on the fate of 325 named prisoners, reported to have been executed."

However, this issue was dealt with and referred to, in clause 243 of the UN report, which says "the allegation that political prisoners had been executed under false charges of drug trafficking was given special attention during the visit" by the 5-man UN team, led by Reynaldo Pohl.

Clause 243 continues that "three witnesses from the political opposition, who were well informed and spoke on other issues that were not precisely favourable to the Government (of Iran), said they were not aware of a single case of a political prisoner being executed as if he were a drug trafficker."

It continues that "it would be strange if, living in the place and following events so closely, such persons had not learned of facts of such great significance." And this clause concludes that "in the light of his conviction and in all honesty, the special representative considers that, unless specific proof is submitted to him in this regard, this allegation involves elements of speculation and he rules it out."

In addition, in clause 244, the report says that although many persons "are still awaiting execution," Pohl "has gained the impression that this harsh policy could become a good deal less severe." And in clause 130, regarding the death penalty for drug trafficking, it adds that Iran's special prosecutor pointed out that the death penalty "applies only to repeat offenders and is directly linked to distribution" of drugs.

Iran's special prosecutor also said that "Nasser Mohammad Tachi, a political prisoner allegedly executed as a drug trafficker, does not exist", and "the allegation that several executions took place in Monirieh Square (in Tehran) is false as that square has never been used for executions".

Pohl also mentioned in his report, in clause 86 that "it had repeatedly been stated that Ayatollah Montazeri was under house arrest, but, through political opposition sources, it was possible to establish that he is free and devoting himself to teaching."

Pohl attended a murder trial and visited a number of prisons in Iran, including Evin Prison in Tehran, where he was welcomed by a choir and small band, made up of prisoners and where he noted workshops exist and prisoners who work earn wages. He spoke to a number of prisoners, who said they were formerly members of the Mujahidin Khalq Organisation (MKO) and the Tudeh (Communist) Party.

Some prisoners claimed they were tortured or forced to speak well of the prison system, while others freely admitted there was no torture and the prison system was a normal one. One such man was cited by Pohl in clause 197 of the report. 'Ali Akbar Ghaffari stated that he had belonged to the military faction of the MKO and had been detained from 1983 to 1988 in Ahwaz Prison, where "he had never witnessed any torture or been subjected to it himself."

He stated that "prison facilities were excellent, that food had been abundant and that he had received family visits regularly. However, a man named Kianuri, former secretary general of the Tudeh Party, claimed "he was tortured several times", the report continued. But, many prisoners, even former members of the MKO, denounced that organisation's acts of "terrorism" and murder, when they spoke to the UN's special representative.

The UN report also made reference to the status of minority groups in Iran and in clause 192 a Sunni Muslim of the Hannafi school of thought said Mujahidin Khalq groups "tried to arouse anti-Shi'a feelings in his region by spreading false propaganda financed by Saudi money" against the Shi'a school of thought.

He stressed that "the (Iranian) Government was actively supporting religious activities by the Sunni minority" and he also reported "the destruction of houses in a village of his region by (MKO) terrorist groups."

Pohl also met leading personalities of the Baha'i community who according to his report "confirmed that the situation of their members had generally improved." The UN report said "it was now easier for Bahai's to obtain business licences" and President Hashemi-Rafsanjani was quoted in the report has having said "those who are in prisons have committed some offences. No one is in prison in the Islamic Republic of Iran simply because he is a Baha'i."

On Friday 26 January, 1990 the special representative visited an Armenian association called Ararat and his findings were that "both the Armenians and the other religious minorities freely practice their religion. In Tehran, the Armenians have seven active churches and twelve in Esfahan."

He was concerned about the issuing of passports and the difficulty that many people have in Iran in obtaining one. Pohl suggested that "in the matter of issuing passports, the higher authorities should look into the way in which the lower authorities are keeping to the law and to the regulations established by the higher authorities."

Finally, with regard to the future, the UN's special representative on human rights said that "The Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran has been receptive to some criticisms made in earlier reports" by the UN and he therefore felt that "this receptiveness indicates that other suggestions and criticisms could well be taken into account."

He expressed the opinion that the Iranian Government's next step "could consist in providing detailed replies to the allegations transmitted to it" and he felt "it might well prove that some officials had failed in the performance of their duties and that disciplinary measures or punishment would be needed or, on the contrary, that it would be appropriate to demonstrate that the allegations were inaccurate, false or mistaken."

The report concluded by saying that "it is the special representative's conclusion that, in his view, the commisson should continue to monitor the human rights situation in the Islamic Republic of Iran and that

another visit seems desirable. On that basis, the agreement made in Geneva, that another visit should take place later this year, came about.

Ahmad Khomeyni Meets Students Expelled From UK

LD0803122390 Tehran Television Service in Persian 1600 GMT 7 Mar 90

[Text] Members of the committee supporting the students oppressed by Britain [komiteh-ye hemayat az daneshjuyan-e taht-e setam-e englis] and nine students and employees expelled from that country and the members of the family of Mr. Mehradad Kowkabi, the student detained in Britain, today met Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Haj Seyyed Ahmad Khomeyni and submitted a report about the fundamental developments resulting from the historic decree and religious edict of His Eminence Imam Khomeyni, may he be admitted to God's paradise, regarding Salman Rushdie, as well as a report about the arrest of four Muslim Iranians and the imprisonment of Mr. Kowkabi and expulsion of nine Iranians accused of cooperating with individuals and organizations supporting the Islamic Republic.

Then Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Haj Seyyed Ahmad Khomeyni, thanking and expressing his appreciation to the visitors, stressed the need to investigate the situation of the expelled students and achieve their rights.

Afghan Shiites Open Congress in Tehran 13 Mar

President's Message Opens Assembly

LD1303185590 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 13 Mar 90

[Text] On the occasion of the blessed birthday anniversary of His Holiness Mahdi, may God hasten his noble advent, the first congress of Afghan Shiites was opened this afternoon at the Esteqlal Hotel with a message by Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani, the president of our country, and with the participation of the representative of the guardian of the Muslims' cause in the Afghanistan Coalition Council, the chief commander of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps, representatives of Islamic parties and groups, and a number of Afghan personalities residing in Asia and Europe, and some Afghans living in Iran.

According to the report of the Central News Unit, in his message the president, expressing support for the first congress of Afghan Shiites composed of various Afghan Muslim groups and parties and referring to the desire of the Afghans to strengthen their ranks, remarked: This congress is held in continuation of the assistance that has been offered by the Islamic ummah of Iran to the oppressed Afghan Muslims and in support of their rightful struggles. In another part of his message, he stressed the profound and extensive links that exist between the Iranian and Afghan nations and to the common language and culture that bond them. He enumerated the support provided by the Islamic Republic to the Afghan struggles and that country's refugees, even during the imposed war.

In this message, explaining the present situation of Afghanistan, the passage of a year since the withdrawal of Soviet forces from that country, and dissension among the officials of the ruling party, Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani described the formation of an all-encompassing Islamic government representing all the Muslim groups in Afghanistan as the only final solution to the issue of Afghanistan.

His message stressed that the choice of a path by Afghan people should be left to themselves, without the interference of foreigners. On the other hand, all the struggling Afghan groups should cooperate under the banner of Islam and in the direction of unity, because factional, tribal, and sectarian prejudices will prevent the independence and territorial integrity of Afghanistan.

After the message of the president was read, Mr. Velayati, the minister of foreign affairs of our country, said in evaluating the first and second seminars on Afghanistan: The Muslim Afghan people have always through their reliance upon Islam expelled those who have violated their religion and their faith. Today the unity between the Sunnis and the Shiites is one of the factors in the victory of Afghan Muslims, and is a guarantee for preventing influence from the aliens. The minister of foreign affairs of our country added: Since the convening of the first seminar on Afghanistan many things have happened in that country, including the complete withdrawal of Soviet forces; the intensification of differences within the present government of Afghanistan; U.S. efforts based on the diplomacy of weapons, trying to push the people toward schism and toward the creation of dissension among the forces; as well as the narrow mindedness and factionalism of some people who regard the Afghan movement and jihad as belonging exclusively to them.

Then Mr. Mohsen Reza'i, the chief commander of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps, describing the position of the powers in today's world, said: In the future the dominant power belongs to a country or a system that has the power of greater cultural mobilization. He said: The mujahidin brothers of Afghanistan should think about the independence of that country and about the world of Islam, and this can be achieved through unity.

Then the representative of supreme jurisconsult gave a speech in the Coalition Council. And one of the Afghan clerics, explaining the views of the strugglers inside Afghanistan and the struggling forces outside that country, said: It is necessary for al the Afghan brothers to convene a meeting for their unity, free from prejudice and obstinacy, and without the interference of Iranian officials and organizations.

Other speakers in the opening session of the first congress of Shiites of Afghanistan included Messrs Akhlaqi,

Shafaq, and Zafar who spoke about the unity of Muslims. Then Hojjat ol-Eslam Hakim [president of the Supreme Assembly of Islamic Revolution in Iraq] spoke about the common features in the Islamic struggles of oppressed people in Iraq, Palestine, and Afghanistan. At the end of this meeting the executive report of the Afghan Shiites was presented to the congress. In this report it is said: the aim behind the convening of the congress of Afghan Shiites is to move toward a comprehensive unity.

It should be added that this congress meets for four days, with six working committees composed of committees on political, cultural-social, unity, reconstruction, and military issues, as well as a committee on the role of women in Afghanistan. On the fourth day the congress will come to an end after issuing a resolution.

Velayati Addresses Group

LD1303215990 Tehran IRNA in English 1940 GMT 13 Mar 90

[Text] Tehran, March 13, IRNA—First grand assembly of Afghan Shiite Muslims started to work here Tuesday afternoon with the opening message of President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani.

The assembly is attended by a group of Afghan Shiite commanders, Mujahidin leaders and personalities fighting against the Kabul regime. Political, cultural, and historical issues as well as topics related to unity of Afghan people, reconstruction of the country and women's right in Afghanistan are to be discussed in the three-day congress.

The need for unity among all the layers of Afghan Muslim nation, between Shiites and Sunnis in particular, was stressed in the president's message which was read by his advisor for social affairs Masih Mohajeri.

Further in the message, the president reiterated that the Islamic republic is for an independent, non-aligned and Islamic state in Afghanistan.

Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati addressing the assembly said that the future of Afghanistan belongs to all Afghan people. Imposition of anti-Islamic values in Afghanistan where Islam is the only link among various layers of the nation, will eliminate the most important factor of unity among the Afghan nation, he added.

Velayati underlined "The aim behind attributing the assembly to Shiites was not to select one branch of Islam and abandon others, but rather the purpose was to hear the problem of a large sector of Afghan people from themselves hoping that they will attain their deserving position in the future Islamic system of Afghanistan."

He summarized important developments in the past year in relation to Afghanistan as follows:
1-Full withdrawal of Soviet forces from Afgahnistan and aggravation of differences in the ruling party culminating in the coup attempt,
2-American effort, by resorting to arms diplomacy, to pretend that the Islamic movement of Afghanistan is dependent on American assistance,
3-Efforts to alter the direction of the Islamic struggles and orient them towards factionalism returning to non-Islamic system,
4-Crafty efforts to disunite forces which can help bring into realization the unity (of the nation) and end the war,
5-Acceleration of activities to impose factionism contrary to Islamic values,
6-Deadlock in the war and certain activities by resorting to political means,
7-Efforts of the arrogance and reactionary forces, by exploiting the struggles of one million martyrs who fought for Islamic cause, to secure their own future presence and influence in Afghanistan,
8-The new regional and international condition, in Eastern Bloc countries in particular,
9-Shortsightedness and factionalism of certain individuals who think the movement solely belongs to their own groups and sects, endeavouring to abandon other combatant forces.

An Iran-based Afghan Alim Hojjat ol-Eslam Gholam Husayn Musavi, also addressing the assembly, divided the combatant Afghan Shiites into two groups but added "the point is that both groups consider unity among Afghan people as an infrastructural issue." Musavi suggested that both Shiite groups should discuss matters of mutual interests without interference of any other group.

Another speaker from Afghanistan Prof. Hoda recalled that Europe and the U.S. exert discrimination against Afghan Shiites groups in distributing assistance. "In Europe, the institutions which apparently extend assistance to Afghan strugglers, always ignore the Shiites," Hoda stressed. He urged the assembly to pay more attention to those Afghan people residing in Europe as they are gradually losing their culture and are assimilating in the European society.

Commentary Views Assembly

LD1303180290 Tehran IRNA in English 1530 GMT 13 Mar 90

[Text] Tehran, March 13, IRNA—The Persian daily "JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI" in an article Monday commented on the first grand assembly of Afghan Shiite Muslims inaugurated here Tuesday. It said the assembly provides a fresh opportunity to examine ways of confronting conspiracies of the enemies of Islam in the Muslim country of Afghanistan. The three-day assembly opened at Tehran's Esteqlal Hotel Tuesday afternoon.

"Afghanistan has now, more than any time before, turned into the scene of the enemy's schemes," said the commentary. It urged the Afghan Muslim nation and combatant Mujahidin to be more vigilant in order to neutralize ploys of the enemy in their country. Otherwise, it added "they will receive irreparable blows." The paper further added, "the recent bloody coup attempt in Afghanistan indicates that those who have dreamed of

plans for the future of the Muslim country and are directly or indirectly involved in hatching plots, are not sitting idle, but waiting for an opportunity to carry out their schemes in this oppressed Muslim country."

Definitely, the Afghan crisis is not solely an internal issue of Afghanistan and that certain factors are creating the ground for execution of greater plots there and are investing vast amount of efforts into it.

Presently, there is a sort of cooperation and coordination between the arrogant powers with the aim of securing interests of the East and the West and preventing formation or consolidation of any group in Afghanistan which wish to establish an Islamic state and revive Islamic values in this Muslim country.

Determining the future destiny of Afghanistan is not merely responsibility of an individual or a political group, said the article.

Afghanistan with a population of 20 million embodies many minorities with different languages and culture, with Islam being the main link in uniting various sects and tribes in the past century.

The commentary called on all Afghan groups and political parties as well as the Muslim countries to join hands resolutely if they wish to restore the glory and honour of Afghanistan and bring back peace and security to the country. Afghanistan is part of the Islamic world and no imposed political system could by any means ignore this reality, said the paper expressing the hope that the assembly will be an step in this direction.

Velayati Receives Japanese Economic Official

LD1103131790 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 11 Mar 90

[Text] Mr. Kanamori, deputy head of Japan's Federation of Economic Organizations, who is in Tehran at the head of a 70-member delegation, met Mr. Velayati, the foreign minister, this morning. Mr. Kanamori declared that Japan's private companies are ready to take part in reconstruction work and the implementation of the Five-Year Plan in Iran. He informed our foreign minister that his country's foreign minister would like to visit Iran in the near future.

Mr. Velayati referred to the political and economic cooperation between the two countries, described the formation of an Irano-Japanese joint economic commission as useful, and said that it would be a good framework for the expansion of ties between the two countries.

Japanese Businessman on Need for Trade Committee

OW1203042690 Tokyo KYODO in English 0304 GMT 12 Mar 90

[Text] Tehran, March 12 KYODO—A senior official at Keidanren (the Federation of Economic Organizations) expressed interest in setting up an Iran committee within the organization during a discussion with Iranian officials in Tehran on Sunday. Masao Kanamori, a vice chairman of the major business grouping, said such a committee would be able to carefully examine Iranian requests for economic assistance and consider ways of meeting them.

Iran had originally submitted a proposal to establish a joint economic committee that would include government officials from both nations.

Japanese officials said the creation of an Iran committee within Keidanren would be a first step toward the establishment of an Iran-Japan committee.

A joint communique is due to be issued Wednesday following talks between Kanamori and Iranian President Hashemi-Rafsanjani.

Japanese Agreement on Farming Project Signed

LD1003215190 Tehran IRNA in English 1705 GMT 10 Mar 90

[Text] Tehran, March 10, IRNA—The 'Haraz' development project in the Caspian Sea province of Mazandaran will start as of early next year (beginning March 21), according to an agreement signed between Iranian and Japanese officials here Saturday. The giant project spread over 105,000 hectares between the cities of Amol and Babol, would take five years to complete, and its estimated cost in rials is 800 billion (11.5 bn dlrs).

For its part the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) will contribute 3 mn dlrs worth of machinery and technology for the project, and will provide some 3 mn dlrs for training of Iranian experts in Iran, in addition to training of 25 Iranian specialists and farmers in Japan.

The agreement was signed by Deputy Minister of Agriculture Jalal Rasulof and JICA's technical director Nagashima.

Rasulof told IRNA that studies on phases 'zero' and 'one' of the project were completed two years ago according to an agreement signed between the two sides five years ago. Orientation studies were done over the past two years, he added. He said the execution of the plan will greatly improve drainage, irrigation, farm management, husbandry and agro industries besides imparting agricultural training in various fields. A model training and research center will be established for full implementation of the project, Rasulof said.

The Iranian official said the full execution of the plan will help boost the per hectare yield of the 'Tarom' brand of rice to 300 kgs, while the 'Amol-3' variety is expected to yield 1000 kgs per hectare. Dried fodder production will rise by 200,000 tons, he said, while the addition of 20,000 heads of cattle to the project will increase beef production by 2,000 tons and milk by 60,000 tons.

Bulgarian Deputy Foreign Minister Arrives 10 Mar

LD1103144290 Tehran IRNA in English 1332 GMT 11 Mar 90

[Text] Tehran, Mar. 11, IRNA—Bulgaria's National Assembly has recently approved a bill to grant freedom to its Muslim minority, the visiting Bulgarian deputy foreign minister said here Sunday. Bulgarian Muslims are also to enjoy more rights in the political and social developments happening in Bulgaria, Filip Ishpekov said in his first round of talks with his Iranian counterpart Mahmud Va'ezi. He also said that the new Bulgarian Government attached more importance than ever before to expanding ties with the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Va'ezi said that Iran was following the developments in Bulgaria which he said were different from that of the other East European countries and which has caused Bulgarian Muslims to enjoy more freedom.

The Bulgarian official arrived here Saturday night.

Meets With Velayati

LD1203230990 Tehran IRNA in English 1245 GMT 12 Mar 90

[Text] Tehran, Mar. 12, IRNA—Bulgarian Deputy Foreign Minister Filip Ishpekov, now on an official visit here, today called for a meeting between Iran's Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati and his Bulgarian counterpart Boyko Dimitrov. In a meeting with Velayati here, Ishpekov also called for expansion of ties and exchange of top-level delegations between the two countries. Velayati welcomed a meeting with his Bulgarian counterpart.

Meanwhile, Hungarian ambassador to Iran Erno Horvath today handed Velayati a message from his Hungarian counterpart reiterating Budapest's full support for the enforcement of the U.N. Resolution 598 and the U.N. chief's mediation efforts. Horvath said that Hungarian politicians all agreed that Iran occupied a special place in Hungary's foreign policy.

Velayati briefed the Hungarian ambassador on Iran's sincere cooperation with the U.N. secretary-general for the implementation of Resolution 598 and on Baghdad's subversive efforts in this regard. He also said that Iran welcomes the U.N. chief's new plan for resumption of peace talks between Iran and Iraq.

Vows To Purchase Oil, Vehicles

LD1203230590 Tehran IRNA in English 1122 GMT 12 Mar 90

[Text] Tehran, Mar. 12, IRNA—Visiting Bulgarian Deputy Foreign Minister Filip Ishpekov told first Vice President Hasan Habibi here Monday that Bulgaria intended to purchase crude oil and vehicles from Iran.

Ishpekov also said the new Bulgarian Government attached greater importance than ever before to its ties with the Islamic Republic of Iran.

On the Iran-Iraq peace talks, Ishpekov reiterated that Sofia insisted on the full implementation of Resolution 598 and that it would spare no effort for this purpose.

He submitted Habibi a message from Bulgarian President Andrei Lukanov for his Iranian counterpart Hojjat ol-Eslam Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani.

Habibi said that the world community should press the Iraqi regime for the enforcement of [incomplete sentence as received].

***Travel Rules for USSR Border Residents Signed**

90OI0180B London KEYHAN in Persian 22 Feb 90 p 3

[Text] Last week, during a visit by the Soviet deputy director of consular affairs of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Tehran and his negotiations with Mir Mahdi, legal and consular deputy foreign minister of the Islamic Republic, two memorandums of understanding concerning the travel regulations and temporary stay of the border residents of one country to the other were signed.

According to one of these memorandums of understanding, the border inhabitants of the two countries can travel four times a year, and each time for a period of 15 days, to a depth of 45 kilometers within specified areas of the country which is the subject of the journey.

The other memorandum of understanding which is entitled "Conditions for Visiting Dependents and Invites of the Subjects of the Two Countries," states that the subjects of either country can, through securing a valid passport or an invitation which has been approved by the officials of the host country, travel to the other country for a period of two months. In this memorandum of understanding, the necessary time for issuing a visa for the regular travelers has been determined to be 10 days and for emergency cases as three days.

After the recent border incidents in Azerbaijan and the assault of Azeris on the border sentinels and other installations and their destruction—which was meant to obviate the obstacles between the borders of the two countries—the responsible officials of Moscow and Tehran decided, before the recurrence of any more violent incidents, to initiate some regulations regarding the travels of the inhabitants of the border regions of the two nations.

Commentary on Iran-Soviet Economic Cooperation

LD0803130190 Tehran in English to Europe 1955 GMT 7 Mar 90

[Unattributed commentary]

[Excerpts] Yesterday afternoon, at the end of a four-day visit to Iran by the Soviet railways minister, Nikolay

Konarev ,and his accompanying team, a protocol on economic cooperation was concluded between the two countries.

Among major axes agreed to in this protocol are exports of Iranian gas to the Soviet Union, a boost in the Esfahan Steel Mill's production capacity, construction of power stations, and implementation of joint development projects.

In general, expansion of political and economic relations with the East Bloc states has been one of the objectives pursued by the Islamic Republic since the Islamic Revolutions's victory and within the framework of the policies and preservation of Iran's economic and political independence, mutual respect, and noninterference in internal affairs of one another.

Based on this, development of the Irano-Soviet ties appears to be something unavoidable in the light of geographical conditions, long land and coastal frontiers between them, mutual economic needs and common cultural characteristics. Despite this, political and economic relations relations between Iran and the USSR during preceding years confronted some political obstacles. However, the withdrawal of Soviet troops from Afghanistan and proper posturing by the Kremlin on establishment of peace between Iran and Iraq were among the factors which paved the way for favorable grounds to improve bilateral ties.

In the wake of these developments, there ensued a new era of developing Irano-Soviet ties with the message of Imam Khomeyni, late leader of the Islamic revolution, to Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev and the latter's reciprocal message for Imam Khomeyni. Trends on improvement of bilateral ties progressed with the visit of Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani, the then speaker of the Islamic consultative Assembly, to the Soviet Union last June. [passage omitted]

During the 12 sessions of the Irano-Soviet Permanent Commission on Economic Cooperation which ended in Tehran after the conclusion of a protocol on economic cooperation, agreement was reached on practical means of implementing that protocol. [passage omitted]

In his concluding speech at the 12th session, Mr Konarev, Soviet railways minister and the head of the Soviet delegation to the joint commission, expressed happiness at attainment of good results by the two countries in economic cooperation; he noted that Moscow would have a very responsible approach towards the accord reached.

As a whole, in view of the existing atmosphere and understanding in the Iran-Soviet ties and increasing degree of mutual trust and especially with the conclusion of the recent protocol on bilateral economic cooperation, it appears that favorable grounds have emerged for the expansion of political, economic, and cultural cooperation between the two countries.

Editorial Favors More Cooperation With GCC

NC0803172490 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 28 Feb 90 p 2

[Editorial: "Detente in Iran's Relations With (P)GCC Not Too Distant"]

[Text] (Persian) Gulf Cooperation Council [(P)GCC] Secretary General 'Abdallah Ya'qub Bisharah said on Sunday the regional council's members were all interested in having cordial ties with the Islamic Iran as a major partner in the Persian Gulf waters. According to Bisharah any peace plan for this part of the world must be comprehensive enough to cover all concerned nations.

Actually the secretary general's words are not new. As far as the verbal side of the issue is concerned both Iran and the Council have time and again expressed their readiness to see an upward trend in their ties. Practically though not much has been achieved.

This of course does not in no way mean that at present Iran has less than friendly ties with most of the Council's members.

Among the six members of this regional council however Iran's relations with Oman, United Arab Emirates and Qatar have been relatively good even at the culmination of the Iraqi-imposed war of 1980-1988.

After the ceasefire with Baghdad in September 1988 Iran's ties with Kuwait, one of the main supporters of Iraq, saw a period of improvement too.

As such only Saudi Arabia and Bahrain, a staunch follower of Riyadh policies, are left out of this framework for better ties. So individually speaking Iran has had good ties with most of the (Persian) Gulf Cooperation Council. But in collective terms it has to be conceded that the key to better ties between Iran and the Council as a whole lies with Saudi Arabia.

It is only after Saudi Arabia ends its anti-Iran propaganda that a regional security pact to include all the Persian Gulf countries can be worked out. Iran however has actually shown that it is accommodating enough to even forgive those countries which supported the Iraqi war against it. The Kuwaiti instance testifies to this.

Iran is a strong supporter of what the (P)GCC secretary general says. Security of this region benefits all littoral states and should be decided by them.

Any such security pact should of course exclude and practically join to expel foreign forces from regional waters.

(P)GCC should now very seriously think over the issue of the presence of American forces in the Persian Gulf. What really is the need for such a presence now?

The call for U.S. forces to quit the region can greatly augment efforts for working out a true detente among the

regional nations. From this perspective detente is certainly not beyond reach and on the contrary very much within.

Kashmiri Muslims Condemn Indian Massacre

LD0803130890 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 8 Mar 90

[Text] Kashmiri Muslims residing in Iran gathered this morning in front of the UN mission in Tehran and condemned the massacre of Muslims by Indian forces in Jammu and Kashmir. According to our correspondent's report, in their gathering today, the Muslims of Kashmir issued a resolution in which they lent support to the liberation movement of people of Jammu and Kasmir, while seeking the implementation of all resolutions ratified by the UN aimed at staging a free and impartial referendum in Kashmir.

Another part of that resolution states: We Muslims of Kashmir residing in Iran demand the speedy and unconditional withdrawal of Indian forces from the territory of our beloved land. Further, we urge the UN, the Islamic Countries Conference, the Nonaligned Movement, all liberation movements, and all freedom-seeking leaders of the world, as well as the Islamic world—in particular the dear revolutionary brothers and sisters and the martyr-nurturing ummah of Iran—to lend support to the jihad of Muslims of Kashmir against the Indian Government.

TEHRAN TIMES on Human Rights in Kuwait

NC1203140990 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 5 Mar 90 p 2

[Editorial: "Kuwait Should Listen to the Voice of Conscience"]

[Text] Recently news coming from tiny Kuwait assumes a color that is alarming. The London-based human rights organization in its report said recently that 15 Shiite Moslems including prominent religious personalities have been arrested in Kuwait since September last. These, according to the human rights commission, are not only being kept in prison without trial but are also being tortured by the Kuwaiti security forces.

According to the same report, one of these arrested Moslems is under threat to be deported to Saudi Arabia.

These reports and similar one from Saudi Arabia on the plight of the Shiite community in these countries are tragic and alarming and the entire Moslem world is concerned.

As far as Iran is concerned, no matter if the victim is Shiite or Sunni, or even non-Moslem, the Islamic Republic is always on the side of the oppressed.

This is why whether it is a matter of Afghanistan, Soviet Azerbaijan, Lebanon, South Africa, Kashmir or Kuwait and Saudi Arabia, the Islamic Republic voices its support for the oppressed people and it should in no way be considered an interference into the internal affairs of others.

After the ceasefire in the Iran-Iraq war, the Islamic Republic responded favorably to the move of the Kuwaiti regime and despite all the hostilities during the war Tehran extended its hand to Kuwait.

But the question of the harassment of the Moslems, that too, it is believed on the initiative of the Riyadh regime, cannot be ignored by the Islamic Republic of Iran.

The Kuwaiti regime should make it a point to know that these arrests and torture of the Moslems are not in their interests and the rulers should keep their fingers on the pulse of changing times.

Ironically, Kuwait is currently chairman of the Organization of the Islamic Conference and it is hoped that it will keep the broader interest of the Moslems and Islam, rather than that of the Saudi regime, at the fore.

The arrested Moslems should immediately be released as they are innocent and they have committed no crimes. Kuwait should listen to the voice of conscience and act accordingly.

Commentary Sees Turkish Prospects as 'Bright'

NC0803173390 Tehran International Service in Turkish 1700 GMT 3 Mar 90

[Unattributed commentary: "Iran and Turkey Sign an Economic Agreement in Principle"]

[Text] Turkish Prime Minister Akbulut and the delegation accompanying him left Tehran Friday morning after signing an agreement in principle with Iranian economic cooperation officials. First Vice President Habibi bade the visitors farewell at an official ceremony.

In an inteview before leaving Tehran, Prime Minister Akbulut discussed his talks with high-ranking Iranian officials and said that the talks indicated that the two sides share the political will to establish joint cooperation and develop relations. Meanwhile, under the agreement in principle signed during the Turkish prime minister's visit, the two sides have agreed to increase their bilateral trade to a value of $2 billion annually. Furthermore, a decision was adopted on replacing the barter system in trade with the currency system.

The agreement in principle also covers industrial cooperation. The development of cooperation in this field is envisaged in joint projects. It was also decided that Turkey will be given the opportunity to use its experience and resources in Iran's reconstruction. The decision will also create the opportunity for Turkey to particpate in the effort Iran is making to remove the deficiencies in the production capacities at a number of factories.

The agreement in principle also envisages joint investments in the production of vehicles such as automobiles, buses, minibuses, and trucks. Meanwhile, the two countries also agreed on the establishment of a joint committee to study how the project for constructing a natural gas pipeline between Turkey and Iran can be realized. The agreement in principle calls for improving cooperation in the agricultural field, establishing cooperation in the supply of electricity and the exchange of labor, improving land, air, and sea transportation, and upgrading the capacity of railway transportation.

The agreement in principle signed by Iran and Turkey in general and the decision to replace the barter system in trade with the currency system in particular indicate that economic relations between the two countries are entering a new era which is expected to have positive results.

In view of what Iran and Turkey have in common in the economic, social, and cultural fields, observers have described the prospects for relations between the two countries as very bright.

Iranian-Turkish Relations Termed 'Fruitful'

NC0803175090 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 27 Feb 90 p 2

[Editorial: "Warm Turkey-Iran Ties Have Been Mutually Beneficial"]

[Text] Turkish Prime Minister Yildirim Akbulut arrives in Tehran today on a three-day official visit for extensive talks with the Iranian government.

Since the Islamic Revolution of 1979 in Iran the two countries' relations have seen an extensive promotion and been mutually fruitful.

In the economic sphere the two capitals' ties, based on political understanding, saw an upshot unprecedented in the historical relations of the two nations dating back to many many centuries ago. In 1985 the volume of trade between Iran and Turkey reached three billion dollars, 150 times the volume of transactions under the former regime in Iran.

In the cultural arena too, although there is still room for further development and more cooperation, the two neighboring countries have achieved a whole lot.

Meanwhile the two nations' interests necessitates further cooperation and coordination in the regional and international scenes.

It can then be said with some certainty that the two countries' relations in the post-revolutionary era have been generally marked by a growing and constructive closeness.

But regrettably at times some minor tensions have hampered the growth of these mutually beneficial relations to their fullest extent to which they are potentially capable of. These tensions of course are exclusive to the politics of the two capitals at high level and mainly caused by unofficial channels. In tracing these untoward incidents one will arrive at evidences pointing to involvement of foreign forces which see their interests in sending the Tehran-Ankara ties on the rocks. The recent anti-Iranian campaign in some Turkish media represented one such incident.

Meanwhile the two nations' economic relations, despite seeing a tremendous enlargement in volume, have been mostly commercial and as such rather superstructural than infrastructural. It is perhaps this feature of the Turkish-Iranian trade that has caused a slump in recent years since 1985.

It is advisable that the two governments bat for deepening their economic ties to the point of making them invulnerable to economic vagaries and vicissitudes. This will call for an economic, not merely commercial, tie-up and an industrial mingling between the two Muslim nations.

Both countries enjoy vast industrial potentials and can go for extensive cooperation in launching industrial projects. Such cooperation will certainly help both countries to make billions of dollars in saving and income.

Now given the way the West has been handling Turkey and its industrial aspirations in recent years, the Ankara government should have well realized by now that the country's real position is one among brothers in the Islamic fold. This Islamic accommodation and position should be tapped by the Turkish Government to fulfil the Muslim nation's spiritual and material objectives and aspirations.

In other words it is much better for Turkey to be a locomotive to the Islamic eco-industrial train than the last wagon lagging behind on the Western railway track.

Navy Ship on Training Trip Docks in Karachi

LD1003213590 Tehran IRNA in English 1512 GMT 10 Mar 90

[Text] Tehran, March 10, IRNA—The Iranian Navy logistic ship 'Kharg' Saturday docked at Karachi port, Pakistan, on the last leg of its 7,000 nautical mile training trip in the Indian Ocean.

With cadets from the Navy and IRGC [Islamic Revolution Guards Corps] naval force on board, 'Kharg' has called on several ports in eastern and southern Asia before anchoring at Karachi.

The vessel and its crew were welcomed by Pakistan's acting navy commander, several Pakistani officials and Iranian Embassy officials in that country. The trainees on board the vessel are to visit Pakistan's naval centers during their stay.

The 'Kharg' is to return home this weekend after a several-week trip.

President Receives Mexican, Colombian Envoys

LD1203100290 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 11 Mar 90

[Text] Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani received today (Antonio Deniaz), Mexico's accredited ambassador to Tehran. The new Mexican ambassador presented his credentials, conveyed the Mexican president's greetings to the president, and expressed the wish of the Mexican people and government that there should be cooperation between the two countries and that mutual ties should be further expanded. Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani asked that his greetings be conveyed in turn to the Mexican president, expressed pleasure at the presence of Mexico's ambassador to the Islamic Republic of Iran, and stressed (?the need for) increased cooperation between the two countries.

Also today, the president received (Eduardo Baaraz), Colombia's accredited ambassador. The new Colombian ambassador presented his credentials, conveyed the greetings of his country's president and a message of friendship from Colombia's people and government, and said: I am very pleased to have the great honor of serving in the great country of Iran, a country which, by maintaining its profound spiritual values, has consistently played an important and decisive role in international relations, and I announce that my country, Colombia, sincerely wishes to expand its ties with the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani hoped that the new Colombian ambassador to Tehran would be successful, conveyed his greetings to the Colombian president, and said: The Islamic Republic of Iran wants greater cooperation through the expansion of ties between the two countries.

Drug Traffickers Hanged in 12 Cities

LD1203015790 Tehran IRNA in English 1100 GMT 11 Mar 90

[Text] Tehran, March 11 IRNA—Some 39 notorious drug traffickers were hanged in 12 cities throughout the country Sunday.

The group were tried and sentenced to death by the Islamic Revolutionary Courts in charge of anti-narcotics campaign in the cities of Gonbad Kavous, Malayer, Shahrud, Torbat-e Jam, Shiraz, Qom, Neyshabur, Semnan, Bushehr, Bam, Garmsar and Gorgan. In a statement issued today, the prosecutor's office announced that all the 39 had long records in narcotics trafficking.

Prior to execution the smugglers underwent medical examination, performed religious rites and met with their family members.

The smugglers, in addition to being involved for many years in production, distribution and trafficking of drugs, collaborated with international traffickers.

All those hanged had also confessed to smuggling of arms and munition into the country and selling them to bandits and drug gangs.

Two of the smugglers hanged in the holy city of Qom had distributed 3.5 kgs of heroin in the city in one occasion.

According to the new anti-drug law which went into effect January 1989, any person who is found carrying or possessing drugs and is involved in distribution or smuggling them out of the country, will be sentenced to death and his property will be confiscated.

Meanwhile, a man who had kidnapped several children in Tabriz capital of East Azerbaijan Province last year, was hanged in Tabriz on Saturday.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani Remarks on Anti-Drug Campaign

LD1203035290 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 11 Mar 90

[Remarks by President Hashemi-Rafsanjani at a meeting with officials of Iran's Gendarmerie on 11 March; place not specified; announcer-read—live or recorded]

[Text] The representative of the supreme jurisconsult and head of the ideopolitical organization, the commander of the Islamic Republic of Iran's [IRI] Gendarmerie, heads of the ideopolitical offices, commanders of the regimental units and training centers, and the security and intelligence commanders of the country's Gendarmerie were received by President Hashemi-Rafsanjani this afternoon.

In that meeting Hashemi-Rafsanjani praised the martyrs and paid tribute to the Gendarmerie for their services rendered towards the betterment of the country's economic environment through their relentless campaign against narcotics-contraband, and the elmination of depravities left from the war period. He graciously stressed [goftand]:

The campaign against narcotics is a holy jihad, and the Islamic Republic's Gendarmerie should do its utmost to remove that social affliction, by closely cooperating with the Islamic revolution court and other forces, said Hashemi-Rafsanjani.

Remarking on the active presence of the Gendarmerie forces on the country's borders and various regions, and their alacrity in confronting the perpetrators of evil, the president graciously said that there are those individuals who exploit the country's economic condition and the existing shortages in the society resulting from the war, by resorting to such means as narcotics contraband, thus placing obstacles in the path of reform. In this connection, the Gendarmerie plays a very significant role. Campaigning to that end constitutes a serious step towards the betterment of the country's economy and morale, closing the field of action to corrupt individuals, and rescuing upright individuals from falling into the whirlpool of decadence.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani added that today, the world has recognized narcotics contraband as a serious peril, which has resulted in the waging of extensive military campaigns in some countries. That is an issue which the Western imperialism had always deployed as a weapon against nations, leading their economy and popular forces to decadence, and plundering their national assets. The president reiterated: The IRI as an Islamic and revolutionary authority should confront that issue decisively.

Concluding his remarks, Hashemi-Rafsanjani, addressing the Gendarmerie commanders and personnel, graciously said: You should be present in the country's provinces, as honest guards and trustworthy and caring representatives of the system. By achieving total success in gaining the people's trust and establishing an emotional bond with them, you will gain the noblest of assets for yourselves. To that end, you should encourage those who are trusted by the people, and deal harshly with those who have been alienated by them.

The president also stressed the importance of the Gendarmerie personnel's presence during Nowruz [new year celebrations starting on 21 March], and the provision of the necessary facilities.

Prior to the president's remarks, Mr Ashtiani, the supreme jurisconsult's representative in the Gendarmerie, having submitted a report comprising the Gendarmerie's activities on defending the country's borders, their participation in the imposed war, and their campaign against narcotics, reaffirmed their allegiance to His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i, the great leader of the Islamic Republic, and their support for the president's aims.

Majles Defense Committee Official Interviewed

LD0703162290 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1200 GMT 7 Mar 90

[From the "Majles and People" program]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] Last week we had a debate in our program titled "The Performance of Majles's Defense Committee," when in the course of a talk with Mr. Montajab-Nya—chairman of the Majles Defense Committee—we reviewed the activities of that committee for the three branches of the Armed Forces. However, as the Majles's Defense Committee is one of the sensitive and active committees within the Majles, and the description of its activities cannot be fit into one or two programs, in this program we will continue the debate in a brief and concentrated manner. Let us now listen to our correspondent's report from the Majles.

[Begin recording] [Correspondent] I think the first issue which must be presented to our dear listeners, is that you, Mr. Montajab-Niya, explain the activities and duties of the Defense Committee. I will then ask other questions as we go on.

[Montajab-Nya] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. The Majles Defense Committee is one of the very sensitive and effective committees. According to the Majles' internal rules and regulations, the number of members of that committee is fixed, and a maximum of 13 people can be members. Praise be to God, the capacity is almost full, and we are only one or two people short; we are trying to fill the vacancies. The members have two duties, like the members of other committees, one legislature and the other supervision on organs whose work relates to the committee and its specialism. The legislature duty concerns bills and schemes which are referred to that committee, to which I will point out later. Supervision over related organs concerns the army of the Islamic Republic and the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC), both of which have direct liaison with the defense committee who makes legislations about them, while supervising over them within the boundary of its legal authority. Furthermore, a lot of security forces matters constitute the committee's task, and the committee supervises over them to a great extent. Further, a considerable pact of security affairs is the responsibility of the Majles Internal Affairs Committee. [passage omitted] We carry out legal supervision over both the Ministry [of Defense] and the forces, inviting them to our meetings. However, commands and orders exclusivly come from the commander in chief. [end recording]

[Presenter] The merger of security forces in another activity of the Majles committee in charge of defense affair, and this issue has been receiving attention by the committee members for a while, and through the efforts of deputies and specialists, this bill will become part of the working agenda of the Majles. We now listen to the rest of our correspondent's interview with chairman of Majles Defense Committee.

[Begin recording] [Correspondent] Mr Montajab-Nya! One of the issues that conerns the defense committee, and our listeners have contacted us about it, is the merger of security forces. I will be grateful if you would give us the necessary explanations in that connection.

[Montajab-Nya] Yes, of course, this is one the bills which I wanted to mention, that is a bill on merger of security forces, which the esteemed government submitted to the Majles with single urgency. The bill's single-urgency was ratified by the Majles, and right now it is the agenda of work for the committees in charge of defense and in charge of internal affairs. In a joint session of those two committees, the bill is receiving attention. In addition to members of the committee who review the issue collectively—and actually we had a meeting today in that regard—we have also formed a working group to contact officials and specialists, and then convey the final opinion of specialists to the joint session. We hope that we may be able to ratify that bill in a way which is in the interests of the revolution, the system, the nation and the country's security forces, and then present the Majles with a calculated and comprehensive bill. This is one of the important tasks of the defense committee, which it is

carrying out in association with the internal affairs committee. [passage omitted] [end recording]

***3d Phase of Bid-Boland Refinery Operational**

90OI0202D Tehran KEYHAN in Persian
24 Feb 90 pp 1, 18

[Text] Economic Service—The Motor Oil Production Unit of the Abadan Refinery was put into operation yesterday on the anniversary of the assignment of the Prophet's (peace be upon him) mission with a capacity of 1,500 barrels per day. This unit is the second phase of the Abadan Refinery's reconstruction and operation since the acceptance of Resolution 598. It went into operation yesterday after nine years of stagnation, to the shouts of "God is great" and "Death to America" from oil industry employees and workers and a group of guests.

The Abadan Refinery has a total area of 13 kilometers, and in 1359 [21 March 1980-20 March 1981] (before the war) it had the capacity to refine 230,000 barrels per day, producing by-products such as gasoline, kerosene, gas oil, stove oil, and liquid natural gas. With the onset of the imposed war and because of the close proximity of this refinery to enemy soil, in the very first days of the war the refinery stopped its operations and turned into a ruin, and it remained inactive until Farvardin of 1368 [21 March-20 April 1989]. On 12 Farvardin [1 April 1989] of the current year the first phase of this refinery was put into operation with a capacity to refine 140,000 barrels of crude oil per day.

Just as was said, the Abadan Refinery was under heavy enemy fire throughout the imposed war. After the decision was made to rebuild this refinery, according to the manager of the nation's refineries, unexploded truck mines, artillery shells, bombs, mortar shells, and other items were collected there. Concerning the start-up of phase two of the Abadan Refinery in 1326 [21 March 1947-20 March 1948], it began operations with a capacity of 900 barrels per day. This unit includes the three sections for dissolving, solidifying, and refining with industrial earth, and these three sections were 55 percent, 60 percent, and 65 percent destroyed respectively during the imposed war.

Asadollah Salehi-Foruz, the national director of refinery affairs, who attended the opening ceremonies for this unit yesterday, gave a talk and said: In 1359 [21 March 1980-20 March 1981] (before the war) the Abadan Refinery converted 230,000 barrels a day of crude oil to gasoline, kerosene, gas oil, stove oil, and liquid natural gas. Its operations stopped with the onset of the imposed war and it had no production of any kind until 1367 [21 March 1988-20 March 1989]. After the acceptance of Resolution 598 and the decision of the Council of Ministers, the decision was made to rebuild parts of the refinery and put it into operation. On this basis the reconstruction of the refinery began in 1367. He added: The task of rebuilding the Abadan Refinery was carried out by oil industry workers and specialists without the involvement of foreigners.

He noted: To rebuild this unit, in addition to the needed parts which were obtained from the nation's other refineries, credit of $9.5 million was allocated, and a total of one million man hours were expended, and today it has gone into operation.

The national director of refinery affairs described the economic effects of this unit for the nation as fruitful. He said: This unit produces 1,500 barrels of motor oil per day, and if we assume the value of each barrel to be $60, it saves us an annual $32 million in foreign exchange that would have been spent on oil imports. He noted: Currently we have a daily shortage of 180,000 liters of motor oil in the country. The Abadan Refinery oil production unit produces 80,000 liters of it daily, and, God willing, the rest will be produced at the Esfahan refinery when its oil producing unit is opened.

According to the national director of refinery affairs, since the beginning of its operations on 12 Farvardin 1368 [1 April 1989] the Abadan Refinery has refined about 38 million barrels of crude oil, and in this regard, to date we have exported about $200 million in surplus stove oil. It is expected that by the end of the year the amount of stove oil exports will increase and this figure will reach $250 million. He noted: The refinery now produces 18,000 barrels of gasoline, 22,000 barrels of kerosine, 23,000 barrels of gas oil, 63,000 barrels of stove oil, and about 5,000 barrels of liquid natural gas, which was eliminated due to the increased production of natural gas.

Continuing his remarks, Salehi-Foruz also added: To reduce the amount of stove oil in the refinement of crude oil, studies have been conducted to complete phase one and to install the distillery unit to reduce costs have been undertaken. We hope that by the time this phase is completed the stove oil produced will be less than 30 percent. He noted: All six of the nation's refineries had a hand in the reconstruction of the Abadan Refinery. He said that the work on this refinery was extensive, and he announced: In the reconstruction of the oil production unit of the Abadan Refinery, 2,000 trailers of parts were used, 250 kilometers of pipe were laid, and about 160 tons of electrodes were used for the welding.

According to this report, the national director of refinery affairs praised all of the oil industry's workers and specialists for their role at the opening ceremonies of the oil production unit, and he gave some of them guidance.

Ahvaz-KEYHAN correspondent: Phase three of the gas refinery at the Bid-e Boland refinery, with a daily production of five million cubic meters of natural gas, has gone into operation.

On the occasion of the anniversary of the Prophet's appointment to the prophecy, and in the presence of a group of gas and oil officials, phase three of the Bid-e Boland refinery was rebuild and put into operation after eight months of efforts from domestic specialists.

KEYHAN's correspondent reports that this refinery was attacked by the enemy several times and was generally damaged, and at a cost of more than 3.3 million rials and through the labor and persistence of the region's workers, a gas refinery in Khuzestan was rebuilt.

According to this report: This refinery is one of the Islamic Republic of Iran's most important gas refineries, with the capacity of refining 15 million cubic meters of gas per day.

It is to be noted that this refinery can play an active role in the production of sulphur.

Minister Stresses Industrial Investment

LD2103103990 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 11 Mar 90

[Excerpts] The first seminar on heavy industries in the five-year plan opened at Tehran University's 'Allameh Amini Hall this morning, with a speech by Heavy Industries Minister Nejhad-Hoseinyan.

According to our correspondent's report during the seminar, which was attended by Mr Nurbakhsh, the minister of economic affairs and finance, the head of the Majles' plan and budget committee, and managers of various heavy industries' sectors, the heavy industries minister described the aims of the seminar. He said: to solve our industrial problems we have no alternative but to establish constant contact with managers and experts in the heavy industries' sector. This should be done seriously. [passage omitted]

Later in the seminar, Mr Nurbakhsh, the minister of economic affairs and finance, said that the tax laws would be amended to improve production. He said: The gross domestic product should rise by eight percent in the first five-year plan. A 27,000 billion rial investment, equivalent to an annual investment of 5,500 billion rials, will be required to achieve that target. He added that 497 billion rials will be invested in industries each year. [passage omitted]

Official on Subsidies, Support for Industry

LD1203093790 Tehran IRNA in English 1635 GMT 11 Mar 90

[Text] Tehran, March 11, IRNA—Subsidies on certain items are to be removed during the first 5-year plan, announced Vice-President and head of the Planning and Budget Organization Mas'ud Rowghani Zanjani today.

Zanjani addressing a seminar on commercial affairs which opened today, said prices should be balanced. The government, he noted, is giving priority for such items as water, electricity, telephone, kerosene and motor oil.

On foreign trade, he said strategic and basic goods should be imported by the government as before.

The government places emphasis on supporting strategic industries, said Zanjani and stressed that attention ought to be paid to 'the principle of competition' of domestic-made goods against the foreign-manufactured ones.

On non-oil exports, he said the 5-year plan has set a target of 18 billion dlrs, and to achieve this figure "vital marketting information is necessary."

The seminar also heard Minister of Commerce 'Abd-al-Hoseyn Vahaji who said financial obstacles faced by production units have been removed. "From now on," he added, "no production unit can claim it has financial problems."

Balance prices coupled with demand and supply will be seen in the islamic republic as of next calendar year (starting March 21), he said pointing out that basic goods will be easily available to the public when this trend picks up.

On facilities for non-oil exports, Vahaji said "export culture" should be encouraged first. The cabinet, he said has ratified several plans in this regard and more are under study.

The participants of the four-day seminar are scheduled to meet President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani on Wednesday, the last day of the conference.

Tehran Residents Urged To Conserve Water

LD0803193790 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1230 GMT 8 Mar 90

[Excerpt] Energy Minister Zanganeh, in an interview with the ISLAMIC REPUBLIC NEWS AGENCY, referred to the problems of supplying drinking water to Tehran. He said: Previously the daily consumption of water among householders in Tehran was 119 liters per person per day. But the figure has increased by about 20 percent and has reached 140 liters. He added: This figure is above the normal requirements for a person, and if the families refuse to economize in the consumption of water—in view of the growing population trend and also higher consumption per head—we will certainly face difficulties in supplying drinking water to Tehran.

Mr. Zanganeh added: Out of a million subscribers in Tehran, about 60 to 67 percent of the people consume normal quantities of water, and their water charges have not changed. However, those consumers who use more water than normal will be charged exponentially. The energy minister believes it is unwise to consume more than 300 cubic meters of water in three months; and water supply to those who exceed this figure will be turned off.

Referring to the point that water is supplied to Tehran at a very high cost, Mr. Zanganeh said: It is unfair and immoral to waste drinking water on such activities as washing cars and garden patios or filling swimming pools and other luxury consumptions. Tehran citizens should take the necessary care to save water. [passage omitted]

Budget for Agriculture, Fishing Detailed

LD0903213390 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 9 Mar 90

[Excerpts] The sum of 18 billion rials will be invested by the Reconstruction Jihad Ministry in the year 69 [year ending 20 March 1991] in the development of the country's agriculture and animal husbandry. The figure shows an increase of 30 percent compared to the year 68 [year ending 20 March 1990]

Reconstruction Jihad Minister Foruzesh announced this in an interview with the Central News Unit. He said: Loans totalling 70 billion rials from the country's banking system allocation will be granted in aid to farmers in the year 69. Also, four billion rials will be invested in reviving the country's tribal regions next year. [passage omitted]

Speaking about the ministry's programs for next year concerning the country's fishing fleet and fisheries, he said: In the year 69, 115 million dollars [as heard] and 15 billion rials will be allocated to improving the fishing fleet and expanding the services of the country's fisheries, respectively. He added: Ten boats for [name indistinct] fishing will be built and launched in Mazandaran next year. To supply the country's protein requirements, fishing in the Caspain Sea and the Persian Gulf will be increased from 270,000 tonnes to 730,000 tonnes, during the five-year economic, social, and cultural development plan. The fisheries output will reach 100 million dollars by the end of the same period. As a result of the implementation of the Reconstruction Jihad Ministry projects, 42,000 new jobs will be created by the end of the five-year plan. [passage omitted]

Report on Distribution of Farmland

NC1403150190 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0330 GMT 14 Mar 90

[Telephone report by correspondent in Shiraz—recorded]

[Text] On the occasion of World Day of the Oppressed and the birthday of the Imam of Ages, may God expedite his advent, an auspicious ceremony was held in the presence of more than 3,000 farmers and members of the seven-member committee of Fars province. More than 8,300 rural families became landowners.

The Central News Unit reports that during this ceremony, which was attended by Hojjat ol-Eslam [Abdollah Hamid Nuri-Hosein-Abadi], minister of interior, and Hojjat ol-Eslam Fazel Harandi, representative of the Vali-ye Faqih in the seven-member committee for land distribution, the deeds to more than 41,000 hectares of utilized and unutilized farmland were given to the farmers who had been before been given temporary use of the land.

During the ceremony, Mr. Fazel Harandi, representative of the Vali-ye Faqih in the seven-member committee, reported on the committee's activities and expressed hope that giving out more than 800,000 hectares of land for temporary farming will be completed within the deadline set by the law ratified by the Majles.

Judiciary Radio, TV Representatives Appointed

LD0603215390 Tehran Television Service in Persian 1600 GMT 6 Mar 90

[Text] Mr. Yazdi, the head of the judiciary, in a decree appointed Messrs 'Ali Larijani as the first representative and Seyyed Hasan Musavyan as the second representative of the judiciary in the Voice and Vision Organization. These appointments have been made on the basis of Principle 175 of the Constitution.

TV Satellite Station Begins Operations

LD1003145190 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 10 Mar 90

[Text] On the eve of the auspicious birthday anniversary of the Lord of the Age, may God's blessing be upon him [the twelfth Shia imam], the satellite television station of the town of Darreh-ye Shahr became operational this morning, thus bringing the center of that town and 80 of the surrounding villages under the cover of the programs of the Second Network of the Vision of the Islamic Republic of Iran. According to a Central News Unit report, with the commissioning of that TV station, the transmitter of which has a nominal power of 10 watts, from now on the 50,000 inhabitants of Darreh-Shahr and its surrounding villages will be able to watch the programs of the Second Network of the Vision, on Channel seven.

The installation and commissioning of that transmitter was carried out by the repair and maintenance unit of the TV and FM transmitters of Ilam center's Voice and Vision.

Nepal

Pro-Democracy Strike Ends 'Peacefully'

BK1403155990 Hong Kong AFP in English 1541 GMT 14 Mar 90

[Text] Kathmandu, March 14 (AFP)—Activists for multi-party democracy in Nepal Wednesday [14 March] staged a nationwide strike which a government spokesman said ended peacefully despite incidents of rock throwing.

A Nepalese human rights group meanwhile accused the government of using torture to suppress political activism, but Nepalese Home Ministry officials denied the allegations of human rights violations.

Nepalese Government spokesman R.S. Bista described the situation as "overall peaceful" despite the arrest of five suspects accused of throwing rocks at state-run buses and taxis. An opposition source however said over 35

people were arrested during the nationwide strike, which the opposition said was successful.

Government appeals to businessmen to keep stores open were largely ignored, witness said, adding that the strike was generally observed peacefully.

"We want to stage a peaceful strike," said Mathbir Singh Basnyet, senior spokesman for the Nepali Congress, the outlawed party that spearheaded the democracy campaign launched February 18. "We don't want to resort to any violence so that the local administration may get a good excuse to torture the banned party activists and campus students participatiang in the current political movement for democratic rights," he said.

The government spokesman acknowledged the strike was a "partial success" but said life in the capital had not been significantly disrupted.

Some taxis, buses and rickshaws were seen plying their trade in the capital but many private cars and taxis remained off the road. Reports from outlying districts, including Jhapa, Biratnagar, Dharan, Chitaun, Bhairahawa, Palpa, Pokhara, Janakpur and several other important townships in the lowland tropical regions indicated widespread support for the general strike.

A group of Indian democracy activists held up a Nepal-bound train in the Indian border town of Jayanagar to express support for the multi-party movement in this mountain Kingdom, which has been ruled under the partyless Panchayat monarchical system since 1960. Mr. Bista said the train was held up for three hours but was later allowed to continue. He said no damage was done to the train.

Meanwhile, the pro-democracy Human Rights Organization of Nepal (HURON) expressed "indignation" at what it said were government efforts to terrorize the entire population to protect the Panchayat system. The group accused the government of subjecting detained democracy activists to extreme physical and mental torture.

Opposition sources said over 5,000 supporters of the banned opposition parties have been arrested in the past month. The government has confirmed that 991 have been detained.

Most schools and universities were closed all day and attendance was low at those schools that remained open, witnesses said.

Legislator Fires on Demonstrators

OW1503041190 Tokyo KYODO in English 0307 GMT 15 Mar 90

[Text] Kathmandu, March 15 KYODO—A member of Nepal's National Assembly who is also a former cabinet minister was arrested after opening fire on prodemocracy demonstrators Wednesday, injuring one man, according to unofficial reports reaching here Thursday.

The legislator, Hem Bahadur Malla, opened fire on demonstrators calling for multiparty democracy in Nepal at Janakpur, about 200 kilometers southeast of Kathmandu, the reports said. One man, Balram Subedi, sustained bullet wounds in the leg, according to the reports.

The official news agency RSS [RASHTRIYE SAMACHAR SAMITI], however, said the shooting took place when two groups of people clashed over the smuggling of timber.

Nepalese cities were brought to a standstill Wednesday by a general strike called to demand multiparty democracy.

A number of demonstrators have been shot dead by police since the prodemocracy campaign began several weeks ago, according to unofficial reports.

Pakistan

'Arafat Refutes Reported Comments on Kashmir

BK1503061990 Islamabad THE PAKISTAN TIMES in English 15 Mar 90 p 8

[From our special correspondent]

[Text] Islamabad—Mr. Yasir 'Arafat, President of the State of Palestine, on Wednesday [14 March] expressed solidarity with the people of Pakistan and supported their demand for t?e right of self-determination for the people of Kashmir.

In a telephonic talk with Mr. Ahmad A. Razaq [name as published], Ambassador of Palestine in Pakistan, Mr. 'Arafat paid tributes to the people of Pakistan for their continued support to the cause of Palestine. Mr. Razaq had rung him up to seek instructions in respect of a news item published in a section of local Press. The item had quoted Mr. 'Arafat as telling the Asian Television in an interview that he believed that "Kashmir is an integral part of India and I am not in favour of raising this issue at the international forum".

Mr. 'Arafat directed the Palestinian Ambassador to refute the story as being baseless and malicious, and called it a part of a propaganda campaign against Palestinians aimed at depriving them of the support of brotherly nations to the just cause of Palestine.

Talking to THE PAKISTAN TIMES, Palestinian Ambassador, Mr. Razaq, said that Mr. Yasir 'Arafat had never said what was published in his name.

In his interview, Mr. 'Arafat had said: "we support international legitimacy and we recognise the UN resolutions and Simla Agreement and we are sure that the two countries would settle the Kashmir issue on the basis of international resolutions and Simla Agreement".

Prime Minister [PM] Benazir Bhutto was asked to comment on the published news item about Mr. 'Arafat

during her news conference at the PM's Secretariat Wednesday afternoon. She said that the Foreign Office was making efforts to confirm the story from Palestinian sources but till that time no reply had been received. "It would be a matter of concern for us if at all the story is true", she said.

Bhutto Comments on Afghanistan, Kashmir

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[Text] The prime minister, Ms. Benazir Bhutto, has called for bold initiatives from all sides for a peaceful political settlement of the Afghanistan problem. Addressing a news conference in Islamabad today, she said the coup in Kabul had vindicated Pakistan's stand that Mr. Najibullah did not represent the people of Afghanistan. Even his die-hard supporters have become frustrated with the continuing deadlock. This was proved by the fact that one of the leading members of Kabul regime had tried to overthrow Mr. Najibullah, who was seen as a major obstacle to a quick settlement of the Afghan issue. Mr. Najibullah had emerged politically much weaker, and his armed forces stood divided and decimated.

The prime minister said Pakistan is in touch with its friends to work out a system so that elections could he held in Afghanistan for a credible, representative, and independent Afghan government.

The prime minister expressed the hope that the Soviet Union would also reexamine its options in Afghanistan.

On Kashmir, the prime minister reaffirmed her government's resolve to continue to extend full political and moral support to the people of the occupied territory in their struggle for right of self-determination. Ms. Benazir Bhutto said Pakistan does not see the Kashmir issue as a territorial dispute between New Delhi and Islamabad. She said developments in occupied Kashmir should not turn into an India-Pak dispute. It would be much better if India and Pakistan have dialogue on how self-determination could be achieved by the people of Jammu and Kashmir according to the Simla Agreement and UN resolutions.

Referring to threats from India to give up support on Kashmir, the prime minister said Pakistan would never abandon its principled stand and it will continue to endeavor for a peaceful resolution of the problem. She expressed the confidence that the Soviet Union would take a stand on Kashmir on the basis of principles. About the institution of the Kashmir fund announced by her in Muzaffarabad yesterday, she said it would help project the cause of Kashmiris. Replying to a question regarding foreign pressures on the Kashmir issue, the prime minister said that they did discuss with various countries, but the highest national interests are set above everything else. She said her government, which represents the will of the people, takes its own decision keeping in view the supreme national interest and principles. Her government would work for strengthening regional peace, security, and stability, but it would never compromise on principles.